

# THE TIMES

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## MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

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Dr Stuttaford's medicine chest

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## INSIDE THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE MUSEUM

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Grown-ups behaving badly at Christmas

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Retaliation for safety check delay

# Britain puts health ban on EU beef

BY CHARLES BRENNER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

**BRITAIN** plunged into a new confrontation with Europe over beef yesterday when Jack Cunningham imposed a unilateral ban on imports that do not meet the safety standards required of British meat.

The Agriculture Minister announced his decision after the EU voted 14-1 to delay the introduction of such checks throughout the Community until next April.

In language reminiscent of John Major's "beef war" in the summer of 1996, he attacked "fraudulent" arguments being put forward in Brussels and claimed that his EU counterparts had "prevaricated and obfuscated" to avoid new anti-BSE health controls.

There were legal doubts over Britain's move last night, and suspicions in Brussels that Dr Cunningham was seeking to distract attention from his ban on the sale of beef on the bone, which came into force at midnight in spite of protests and demonstrations by farmers, butchers and consumers. No other European state has imposed such a restriction.

It was clear also that the impact of his gesture would be limited. Meat from Ireland, the main importer to Britain with 54,000 tonnes last year, France and The Netherlands already conforms to the planned code on the removal of the brain, spinal cord and eyes from cattle, sheep and goats. However, there was an obvious risk of the "war" being resumed, with the possibility of action against Britain in the European Court.

The strongest objection to the new British rules could be expected from Germany, which claims that it has no BSE and so its producers should not be burdened with costly processing requirements.

The European Commission sought the delay in the slaughterhouse code — agreed last July and due to come into



effect on January 1 — after opposition from Germany and half a dozen other EU states, as well as the United States, whose pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries are affected. Last Saturday the Americans extended their own ban of European beef imports in what Brussels saw as retaliation for the proposed meat hygiene rules.

A unilateral ban on beef imports would certainly breach EU rules covering the single market, as Dr Cunningham accepted. "I cannot ban imports of beef — though I think farmers would like me to — that would be a matter that would have me straight into the European Court," he said.

"But I can insist that it can only come in if it has had the specified risk materials removed and been treated the same as British beef."

That approach would break no rules, he said, because he was demanding only that meat sold in the shops should be subject to uniform safety checks. The Commission said it would form an opinion after considering the proposed ban in detail.

Dr Cunningham added: "I believe that people who have been opposed to the original decision have just been prevaricating and obfuscating in detail."

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The European Commission sought the delay in the slaughterhouse code — agreed last July and due to come into

and delaying. I am going to implement it unilaterally on behalf of the United Kingdom to make sure beef coming in is as safe as the beef we have at home. I can't believe that it is good for the reputation of the Commission or the EU that a decision properly taken in July has got to the point where it has failed to be implemented six months later."

He rejected the claims of eight nations that they did not need such measures because they had not suffered from BSE. If the EU were to operate a single market in beef, the same rules and regulations had to apply throughout.

There is a single market in beef, it is traded around that single market and there is no guarantee that beef coming from any country in the EU is beef that has been raised in that country. You can purchase beef in one country where BSE exists and wholesale it from another country where BSE doesn't exist. So it is a completely fraudulent argument to suggest that somehow that provides a safeguard. It doesn't provide any safeguard at all."

Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the rest of the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU suppliers, with the exception of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to be marketable in Britain. Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease.

It was taken inside, but a Downing Street spokesman said that it would be thrown away, in line with government advice that it was not safe to eat. "Obviously this is part of a publicity campaign by farmers and they are perfectly entitled to make their case. But clearly the beef on the bone cannot be eaten and it will be disposed of."

The demonstration outside No 10 was one of a series of protests and rallies opposing the ban, while customers were rushing to buy T-bone steaks,

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## 'CJD' blood products given to 3,000 patients

BY AUDREY MAGEE AND IAN MURRAY

UP TO 3,000 people treated in 100 British hospitals may have been injected with blood products taken from a donor who died six weeks ago from new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE.

None of them is to be told because the Health Department believes the risk of them developing the disease is so slight that there is no reason to cause alarm.

Although hospitals have been advised to return the product used in X-ray screenings to detect lung disease, so far only 15 per cent has been recovered.

There is no order obliging hospitals to return it and some clinicians may go on using up stocks on the basis that patients are far more likely to die from infections or cancer than can be diagnosed with the product from CJD.

Another 268 patients in Ireland are known to have been given injections from the same batch of the product. The Irish Health Ministry has decided to notify all the patients concerned.

Even though the identity of all those who have been given an injection of the product is known, it was decided not to tell them because there is no evidence that the illness can be transmitted through the blood.

He said it was too early to predict which areas could expect a white Christmas, with most of the country returning to temperatures nearer normal by the end of the week.

## South set for the big freeze

BY PAUL WHITTAKER

MUCH of Britain will today experience the coldest day of winter yet with weather forecasters warning of below freezing conditions and snow flurries in some areas.

The coldest temperatures are expected in southern England as icy winds spread in from eastern Europe. Temperatures in Moscow plummeted to -27C yesterday.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said last night that everywhere across the South East would struggle to stay above zero today.

There will be some flurries of snow today but we are not expecting any significant falls.

We should see the odd dusting. It is possible some areas will get a little bit more," he said.

The spokesman said temperatures nationwide ranged between 4C and 6C yesterday with the coldest day of winter — which officially began on December 1 on the meteorological calendar — set to arrive in most areas today.

He said it was too early to predict which areas could expect a white Christmas, with most of the country returning to temperatures nearer normal by the end of the week.

Even though the identity of all those who have been given an injection of the product is known, it was decided not to tell them because there is no evidence that the illness can be transmitted through the blood.

One bottle was sent to Nycomed Amersham which used it to produce 14,000 vials

or the serum derived from it to make the product and the risk of developing CJD is regarded as negligible.

"You are putting an enormous burden on people by telling them they have a remote risk of contracting the disease," the department said last night. "The ethics committee which advises us on these matters decided it was just not appropriate to tell them."

A blood transfusion service spokesman said: "There is no test for CJD or treatment so what would you say to people? They should not be informed because you are likely to cause a lot of unnecessary anxiety."

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## RAF to retrieve Branson balloon

A Royal Air Force Hercules crew has been drafted in to retrieve Richard Branson's stranded balloon in Algeria.

The balloon, which broke its moorings last week just before the Virgin chief's latest attempt to circumnavigate the globe, will be picked up by the RAF crew today and taken to the Branson team base in Morocco. Mr Branson will meet the cost.

## Yard condemned over murder case

Scotland Yard's inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority.

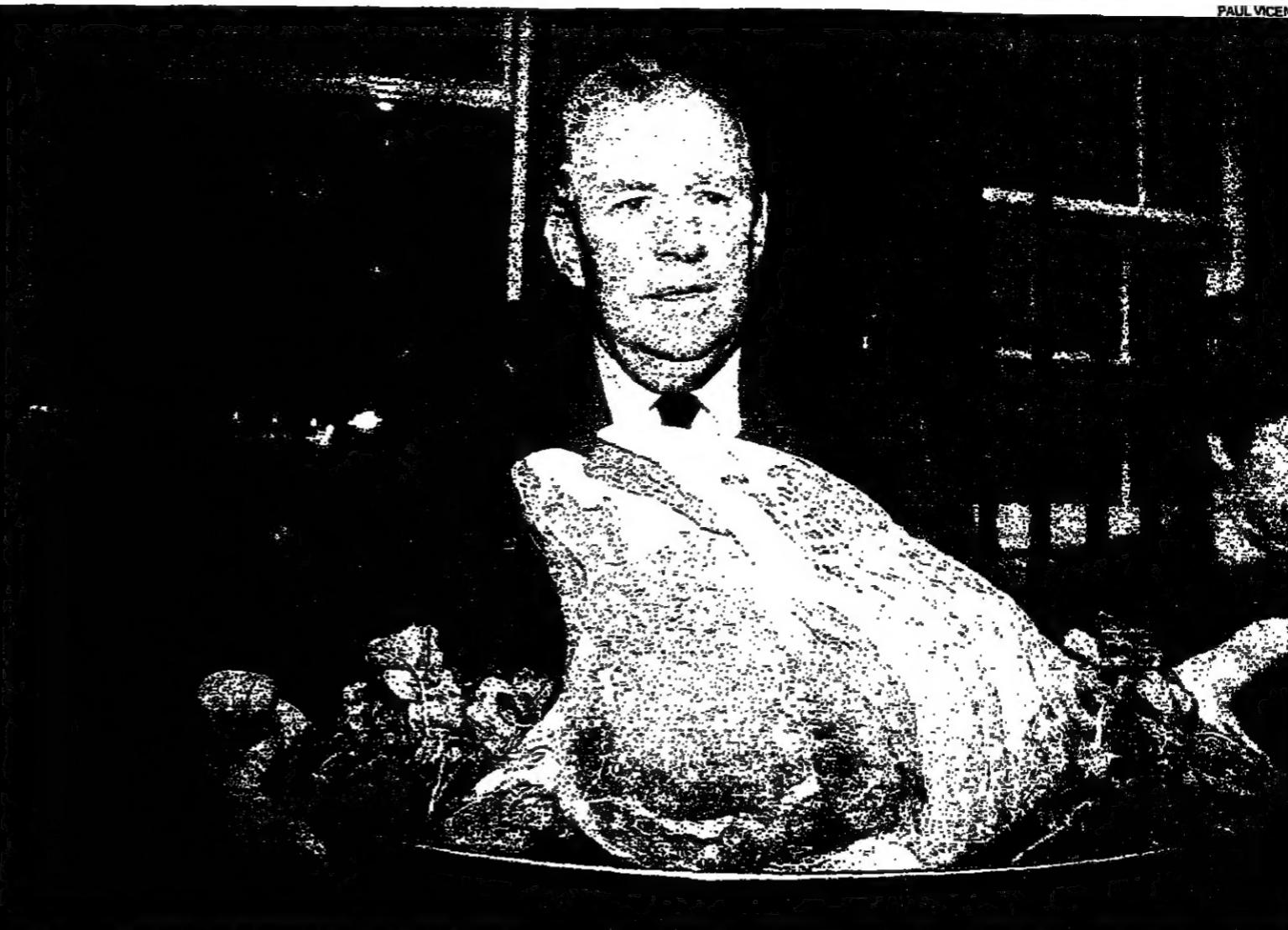
The report was drawn up after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled — Page 9

80 are killed in desert air crash

An airliner carrying 86 people crashed in the desert yesterday nine miles from Sharjah airport in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 80 people. The Tupolev aircraft was en route from Tajikistan to Sharjah. Security men at the ground where England were playing Pakistan were called to the scene (AP).



L'EAU D'ISSEY



David Cray of the British National Cattle Association delivers a £27 beef rib joint to 10 Downing Street yesterday. It was "disposed of" as unsafe

## Downing Street rib joint ends in bin

BY ADRIAN LEE

A 15lb rib of beef was delivered to 10 Downing Street yesterday — and was destined to go straight into the dustbin.

The joint was taken to the doors of No 10 in protest at the ban on the sale of beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight. The National Cattle Association said it wanted the Prime Minister could experience the "excellence of the product" first hand and handed it to a policeman.

It was taken inside, but a Downing Street spokesman said that it would be thrown away, in line with government advice that it was not safe to eat. "Obviously this is part of a publicity campaign by farmers and they are perfectly entitled to make their case. But clearly the beef on the bone cannot be eaten and it will be disposed of."

The demonstration outside No 10 was one of a series of protests and rallies opposing the ban, while customers were rushing to buy T-bone steaks,

caterers Chester Boyd feasted on oxtail soup and baron of beef washed down with bullshot, a drink made from vodka and beef consomme.

At Westminster, butchers in working aprons paraded with a forerib of beef outside the House of Commons and presented the Conservative MP Bill Cash with a petition signed by 106,000 members of the public requesting that they be allowed to make up their own minds.

"I suspect the Government will soon stop us buying beef on the bone if they suspect butchers of breaking the law." That would play into the hands of the supermarkets and send scores of independent butchers under.

Both Mr Dove and Danny Hepburn, a butcher from

Mittonness, Essex, reported that customers had been stockpiling beef. Mr Hepburn said: "They are disgusted by this. One man came in at the weekend and filled his boot with foreribs and oxtail. I have sold more oxtail in the last week than I would normally sell in a year."

By last night, however, most restaurants had reluctantly removed beef on the bone from their menus. Michel Bourdin, head chef at the Connaught Grill in London, said he felt like committing suicide, but added: "I will adapt, what can I do? I don't want to go to jail for trying to save British gastronomy."

## Stubby Kaye dies aged 79

Stubby Kaye, the chubby comic who rose to stardom with his performances as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the stage and film versions of *Guys and Dolls*, has died, aged 79, at his home in California.

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# Icy chill pushes aside memories of summer

WINTER can come suddenly. One week it is an Indian summer; then you open a window and the season has turned.

Watching Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, knocked about at the dispatch box during questions yesterday, we seemed to see a political summer fled as fast. A fortnight ago the Commons scene looked set fair for the Government. Every question time was the same. Tories asked rude or silly questions. Ministers ignored them. Labour backbenchers asked poodling questions, then rolled onto their backs to have their tummies patted.

Returning to the gallery yesterday felt like returning, not after a

weekend, but after a year on another planet: a year during which goodwill had ebbed slowly away and the Government's credit with its backbenchers had gradually been spent. There was a sharpness in the air. Parliament had regained its edge. It was not the same place as we left last Wednesday.

Here is Lynne Jones (Lab, Selly Oak), who asked sarcastically whether ministers thought a weekly payment of £77 to lone mothers was adequate. "What confidence can people have in the Prime Minister's weekend statement about looking after those in need?"

Here is Llew Smith (Lab, Blaenau Gwent), who asked Ms Harman "how many constituents

visiting her surgery this weekend urged her to stick to Tory spending cuts?" Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N and Stoke Newington) cast doubt on whether Ms Harman's "new deal" for lone parents was actually getting more into work.

Here is David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) insisting, with a wry glance at his front bench, that he himself was "not worried in any way" that the Government might sell out on the disabled. "The Prime Minister says the disabled will be

protected and that's what Labour MPs want. She [Ms Harman] should bear in mind not just Treasury ministers."

These are known leftwingers. What is new is not their views, but a willingness now to lift a more (or less) tentative snout above ground and express them. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) even took to kick at Ms Harman's scary Minister of State, Frank Field, instead of the easier target presented by the Secretary of State herself. Old

opinions have gathered new muscle in a matter of days.

Less showy, but as interesting, was the worried silence of most loyal backbenchers and the obvious hunger for reassurance of those who spoke. Harman was ill-supported and the cheers were ragged.

As a debater Ms Harman seems incapable of meshing with anything but a repetition of her own opinions. On each new occasion she takes refuge in a new catchphrase. Last time it was "restricting welfare around the work ethic". Yesterday people did not want to be "written off to a life of dependence on benefits" — as though anyone had suggested they did. Questions are simply ignored

— met with a tin-voiced repetition of the day's mantra.

Frank Field does not ignore questions. When Professor Steven Webb, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, is called to put a question, Skinner is wont to shout "this 'ad better be good", and yesterday Webb was good. Tony Blair, he said, had promised to protect the benefits of disabled people in need. Did Mr Field think any were not in need?

"If he [Webb] thinks they are all equally entitled," replied Field coolly, "his constituents must be different from mine."

In a wokful of tofu from Ms Harman, a shard of flint from Mr Field can break your teeth.

DONALD STEWART

# Hague takes traditional route to altar

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE and Ffion Jenkins, who have been living together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding day and spend the night apart.

The Tory leader will savour the last moments of bachelorhood on Thursday night with Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medallist who is his chief of staff.

Wine and beer will be flowing until the early hours at Mr Coe's Surrey home as Mr Hague, 36, puts the finishing touches to the most nerve-wracking speech of his life after the ceremony at the Gothic chapel of St Mary Undercroft at the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Jenkins, 29, who will spend the evening at a family dinner, has also adhered to convention. She has denied her husband a glimpse of her wedding dress. Mr Hague has not even been told where she bought it. Only handful of close friends and family are in the know.

The bride's elder sister, Manon Williams, 32, who is the assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales, will be the only bridesmaid. There was speculation last night that the eve-of-wedding family dinner would be held in Dr Williams's grace-and-favour apartment at Kensington Palace.

"They are both great believers in the traditions of mar-

riage. They will not be together the night before and William will not see the dress until Ffion walks into the chapel," a Tory official said last night.

They have not always been so conformist. The youngest Tory leader for 200 years became the first to live openly with an unmarried woman when they moved into his rented flat.

The couple have since taken a bigger apartment in the same complex in London. It will be their marital home during the week.

At the party conference in Blackpool Mr Hague had his first disagreement with Bar-

reeding article ..... page 19

ness Thatcher, who helped him to secure the leadership, when he shared a suite with his fiancee. The former Prime Minister was critical of his decision.

"This is different. You get married only once. They both wanted to do it the right way. I think you will find more brides like to be with their Mum the night before," one of Mr Hague's friends said.

Details of the order of service were being withheld by the Tory leader's office but Miss Jenkins has decided not to promise to obey her future husband.

He, however, is already

obeying the Oxford-educated graduate he has agreed not to work on Sundays other than in exceptional circumstances and to take one weekend off each month.

Miss Jenkins has agreed to

take Mr Hague's name but will continue to use her maiden name as operations director for the Association for British Sponsorship of the Arts.

Only five MPs will be among the 170 guests in the crypt when the couple pledge their vows in English and Welsh.

It was her knowledge of Welsh which kindled the spark of romance when she taught him to sing the National Anthem in her mother tongue when he was Welsh Secretary two years ago.

Three of the MPs, Alan Duncan, his political private secretary, Mr Coe, and David Lidington, his parliamentary aide, will act as ushers along with Nick Gove, a schoolfriend.

The others are Julie Kirkbride, the MP for Bromsgrove, and her husband Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. The last time they set foot in the chapel was at the end of July for a blessing of their marriage.

The reception is being held at the Speaker's House and the next day the couple will hold a party for the bride's family and friends in Wales before they go on honeymoon.

The location is one of politics' worst kept secrets: they will stay at a series of romantic settings in India and are expected to visit the Taj Mahal, one of the world's most enduring monuments to love.

Wedding presents are pouring in. Each member of the Shadow Cabinet is donating £50 for a gift. The remainder of the 164 Tory MPs gave £10 for their own present.

The latest request for a gift list is from the Conservatives Abroad branch in Pathos, Cyprus. They can choose between fish knives or tea towels.



The happy pair: William Hague and Ffion Jenkins will revert to tradition before their wedding day

# Ulster leaders fail in search for Christmas breakthrough

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of a breakthrough before Christmas in the deadlocked Stormont talks were fading last night as two weeks of negotiations between party leaders drew to a close with no agreement on a future agenda.

The leaders' working group was

intended to jumpstart the stalled talks. However, barring a last-minute surprise, it will be unable to deliver an agreed direction at today's last plenary session before the holiday. Sources predicted a face-saving paper to keep options open.

"The prognostications are not good," said David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, whose

officials blamed Sinn Fein's for a lack of realism and the Irish Government for a reluctance to break with Gerry Adams's party. A Stormont source said: "We were hoping to start the real business in the new year, but now we'll be coming back to work out what that business should be."

George Mitchell, the American

talks chairman, proposed the working group this month to identify key issues and the best format for resolving them. Mr Trimble said that his party and the nationalist SDLP had agreed on a paper, but other parties had found it unacceptable. Unionists claimed that Sinn Fein had rejected anything that conceded the principle of consent or

Northern Ireland's right to exist. SDLP officials were still hoping for a breakthrough, but suggested that the Unionists were as much to blame for opposing cross-border bodies. The UUP and Sinn Fein were "in denial", said one. A Sinn Fein spokesman denied his party was seeking to exclude any item. Mr Trimble also insisted he had

no plans to meet Mr Adams "this week, next week, next month" or in the "foreseeable future". In a weekend television interview, the UUP leader had not ruled out a face-to-face meeting with the Sinn Fein president, but officials said that no such meeting was possible until Mr Adams had proved his commitment to peaceful, democratic methods.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl died after fax error at hospital

A girl aged 5 died because her medical records were sent to a fax machine in a locked room to which no one had access over a weekend. Doctors, aware of her medical history, gave her a massive overdose of drugs. Southwark Coroner said.

Nourjehan Khan, 5, from Crawley, Sussex, who suffered from giant cell hepatitis, fell ill on a visit to Middlesbrough, and was given the new drug Tacrolimus at South Cleveland Hospital. She died in her father's arms on August 11, after being transferred to King's College Hospital in south London.

### Airport alert

More than 1,000 passengers were evacuated from Heathrow's Terminal One after a second fire alert within three days. It turned out to be a false alarm and passengers were allowed back within 20 minutes. Flights were not delayed. There was disruption on Friday after a fire broke out in a restaurant.

### Inquiry widens

Police investigating allegations of widespread child abuse at six residential care homes in South Wales have extended their inquiry to include a further 27 homes. The move follows an appeal for information from former residents of homes in the region. As a result officers have received a further 250 claims of abuse.

### Bonus barred

A Christmas bonus scheme for prisoners has been dropped after complaints that offenders were receiving the same amount of cash as pensioners. Inmates at Walton jail in Liverpool will be allowed to spend an extra £10 from their own money rather than receive the bonus from prison shop profits.

### Silent Duchess

A busy schedule is reported to have obliged the Duchess of York to turn down a cameo role in a Broadway musical. The Duchess had been invited to appear in a production of *Jekyll and Hyde* alongside her friend Linda Eder. The producers had offered to write a part for the duchess and a special song.

### Artist in court

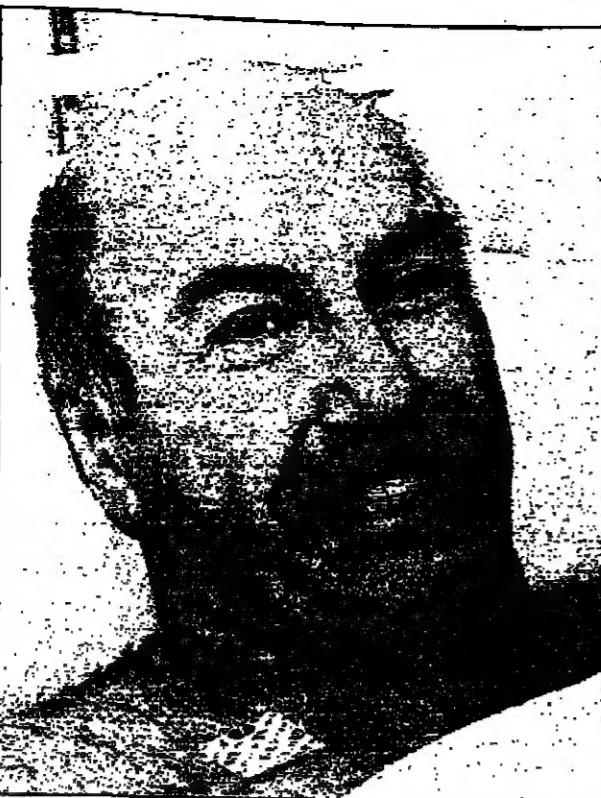
The sculptor Anthony Kelly, cousin of the Duke of Norfolk and a favourite artist of the Prince of Wales, is to stand trial next month for allegedly stealing human body parts for use in works of art. Mr Kelly and Niel Kelly are charged with taking anatomical parts from the Royal College of Surgeons.

### Saab reverses

A family-run business selling Indian food has won a legal battle against the Swedish car manufacturer Saab over the name of its pickles and spices. Saab has dropped its objection to the Bolton-based House of Raja using the name Mensaab. It had claimed the name was too similar to its own trademark.

كما في

# That hurt, says man who fell 2,000ft



Bren Jones yesterday: cannot wait to jump again  
Mud, glorious mud, saves a grandfather from serious injury after parachute fails.

**Paul Wilkinson reports**

THERE was only one certainty in the mind of a 56-year-old skydiver as he plunged 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Bren Jones thought: "This is going to hurt."

Then he may have passed out. Moments later, he found himself lying in the soft mud of a rain-soaked field. As anxious friends approached, he sat up and started joking with them.

The parachuting fanatic, who has repeatedly claimed that his hobby is no more dangerous than crossing a road, had survived with no broken bones and no serious injuries. He was right about one thing: it certainly hurt.

Yesterday the grandfather was recovering in Lincoln County Hospital with a lot of bruising and a chipped bone in his back. Doctors are also monitoring pains in his legs. Experts think that the cushioning effect of the muddy ground

saved him after his canopy became entangled with another parachutist, sending him spiralling down out of control. He said that he could not wait to jump again.

Mr Jones, who runs a suspended ceiling business in Leeds, said: "I didn't have time to think about whether I would live or die. I was more concerned with just trying to control the parachute. The ground just approached painfully fast. I just knew it was going to hit, and I

just knew it was going to hurt. I was worried about hitting the ground. I'm just thankful I landed on soft, ploughed fields. I have extreme bruising which is giving me a lot of pain. This has not put me off parachuting and I will certainly be doing it again. It's a hobby which I enjoy and I take seriously."

Friends describe Mr Jones as

just the sort of character to jump out of a plane and land safely without a parachute. Last Christmas, the veteran of 3,500 jumps joined an international group to sky-dive at the North Pole, and he celebrated his 50th birthday by parachuting into his back garden. He also does charity jumps and once took up a thalidomide sufferer so that she could experience the thrill of parachuting.

The divorced father of three grown-up children had jumped at 5,500ft on Sunday with members of the Target Skysports Club, linking hands with two of them. They fell more than 3,000ft, reaching a speed of about 120mph, before pulling their ripcords over Hibaldstow airfield, near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. Mr Jones said: "The canopy opened fully, but there was a gust of wind and I got blown into another jumper

and our chutes became entangled. We had no control. He shouted that he was going to disengage his chute and then he used his reserve chute to land.

"But I could not free his chute from mine and I could not disengage them and use my reserve. I was completely tangled up. The canopy kept opening and closing and just flapping around. It was no use at all. I have no idea how fast I was dropping, but it is not something I would like to experience again."

Trevor Dobson, the club's chief instructor, watched from the ground. He said: "It was unlucky, and rare, but there was nothing either jumper could do to stop it. The other jumper managed to jettison his chute and went back into free-fall before deploying his reserve. But Bren was left with two canopies still attached. His kegs

inflating and deflating and he was totally out of control. Bren had the other chute tangled up with his, so he could not steer. It wasn't fully open, so he was falling faster than normal. His parachute was open but not fully, but still gave him some degree of support. He hit feet first, then his backside hit the ground.

"We found him semi-conscious.

He recognised me and was joking to us. He saw the air ambulance arrive and asked 'I'm not going to have to parachute into the hospital am I?' Bren was lucky to escape with no more serious injury."

The British Parachute Association is investigating the incident. John Hitchin, the association's safety officer, said: "Mr Jones kept his nerve in a very trying situation. He may have blacked out before he hit the ground, but he seems to have deployed his reserve chute at

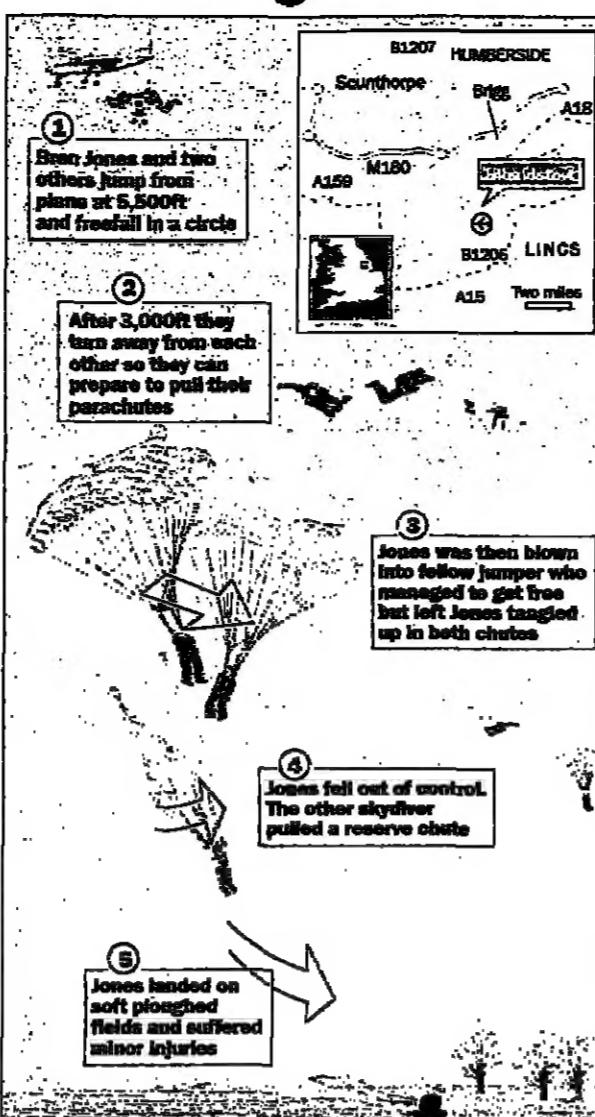
about 300ft." Mr Jones's girlfriend, Carol Day, said: "It is remarkable he didn't break any bones. All he needs now is a couple of days' rest. I got a call from the hospital saying there had been a 'bit of an incident'. Although he was on painkillers, he was still his usual self, causing mayhem."

Mr Jones has been parachuting for 30 years, and has been a British Parachute Association instructor for 20 years. Heather Clark, 36, a programme production co-ordinator at Yorkshire Tees TV, who has no arms and legs because of thalidomide, recalled how she had made a jump with him: "He's a very gentle man and was so nice. He even had a special harness made for me. It was once in a lifetime for me and Bren helped to make it."

"It was always something I had fancied doing, but I thought I

wouldn't be able to because of my disability. Bren explained everything to me and put me at my ease. Curtis Hall, 56, a friend, added: "He is a devil-may-care sort of bloke. His feelings on life are to live today because tomorrow you might be dead. He says you can get killed crossing the road as easily as you can parachute jumping. When he got into difficulty he would have kept cool, calm and collected. If there was anyone who could have got away with it, I would have put money on Bren being the man."

Rex Rall, who runs the newsagents near his home in Horsforth, Leeds, said: "He is a great man, a character and a half. He doesn't talk about his charity work. He would help anyone at any time. I bet that when he gets back here, he will say nothing about it."



Dropping into trouble: how the parachute jump went wrong. Mr Jones, pictured in action, was described by his friends as a "devil-may-care sort of bloke"

## Airline chief fights off 'Quality Street' raiders

BY DANIEL MCGROarty AND TIM JONES

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE airline owner fought off two masked raiders who ambushed him inside his London home.

Police believe that Tony Ryan, 61, the owner of Ryanair, is the latest victim of "Quality Street" gangs who scour society columns and Who's Who to select targets.

He was punched and kicked to the floor by the men, who demanded that Mr Ryan revealed the combination number to his safe. The stocky built, bespectacled entrepreneur refused to be cowed and began to fight the two men.

He had been in the ground-floor flat for half an hour without knowing that the two thieves, said to be in their 20s, black and muscular, were also there. They grabbed him as he tried to leave. Minutes earlier a woman companion had left the flat.

A spokesman for Mr Ryan said last night: "It is obviously

very distressing to know they were inside the apartment. He thinks they could not open the safe so their last resort was to grab him. He was not going to give them the satisfaction of the combination number."

The men, who fled in an expensive car, did manage to grab £400 cash and jewellery, including a pearl necklace and diamond ring, brooch and earrings.

Detective Constable Gareth John, who is leading the investigation, said: "He put up quite a struggle and the men left with their tails somewhat between their legs. They were young and very fit, but Mr Ryan is pretty fit too. I think they must have been surprised at the fight he put up."

Mr Ryan refused hospital treatment despite injuries to his face and ribs, and within hours had flown to Ireland to attend a charity function.

Back in his Dublin office yesterday, Mr Ryan, who is



Ryan: refused to be intimidated by raiders

said to have a fortune in excess of £10 million, was reluctant to say more about his ordeal. A spokesman said: "He feels a bit embarrassed, and angry at being assaulted in his own home. He started to fight them off because he felt so indignant. He is not a great fitness fanatic but he is a very

healthy man for his age and is still an active farmer among his many other interests. He certainly would not care to be portrayed as some intrepid 'have-a-go hero', more a man trying to defend his home."

Mr Ryan, the oldest of four sons of a Tipperary train driver, founded GPA — the world's largest aircraft leasing company — in 1975 with a £50,000 stake. GPA ran into trouble after an attempt to float the group and Mr Ryan severed his links in 1994 to concentrate on his cut-price airline, Ryanair, which, after amassing sizeable debts, has become the market leader on the Irish Sea routes.

Police last night said they were investigating whether the description of Mr Ryan's assailants matched those responsible for other "Quality Street" attacks. Their previous victims have included Michael Green, the Carlton TV chief, Lord Mishcon, the lawyer, and Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One magnate.



## Postal bride returns to sender

BY PETER FOSTER

THE marriage of a former gas board chairman and a Thai woman 53 years his junior appeared to be at an end yesterday just six days after the couple began their new life together in Britain.

Brian Clegg, 76, was married to Banjit Sawaengdee, 23, in Bangkok in October after being introduced by a "mail order" dating agency. The former chairman of Northern Gas said he hoped the liaison would provide a climactic closing chapter to his life after two failed marriages.

However, last night Mr Clegg was sitting alone in his penthouse flat in Poole, Dorset, after his wife, known to him by the nickname Joona, decided to leave. He blamed the break-up on his wife's demands for money, allegedly including £5,000 to buy her and a home in Thailand and an allowance for several pov-



Banjit Sawaengdee, 23, and her husband Brian Clegg, 76: "I feel thoroughly stitched up," he said

erty-stricken relatives. But Charles Black, whose company, Siam Introductions, arranged the marriage, said a newspaper deal arranged by Mr Clegg had strained the marriage to breaking point.

Mr Black said: "The poor girl was a prisoner in the

house, so to speak, and couldn't go out because other newspapers were waiting outside. She was a simple girl. She really wanted to come over and be a housewife, but that wasn't to be."

Ms Sawaengdee stands to lose financially if she di-

vorces Mr Clegg and returns to her family in Thailand. According to Mr Black she had been left a house worth £100,000 in Mr Clegg's will and a pension worth £27,000 a year.

A forlorn Mr Clegg said: "I feel thoroughly stitched up. I should have realised what was going on because she started making some outrageous financial demands before she even came over here. But I had a word with the agency and she was told to get back in her box a bit. Right from the start she wanted me to spend, spend, spend."

"I can either sit around thinking that I am an old man and my life is all behind me, or I can think of myself as a bachelor and get stuck in there. I've already had a woman from Ghana ring me up and offer her services as a replacement, so I have asked her to come and have a drink and see how we get on."

ACQUA DI GIO  
WATER OF LIFE

# 'Unsafe' meat can be imported but not sold

By MICHAEL HORNBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE unilateral ban on the sale of imported beef and sheep meat which has not been subjected to the same safeguards as British meat will take effect from January.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said foreign meat could be sold in Britain only if it had come from abattoirs that had removed the brain, eyes, tonsils and spinal cord from the carcasses of cattle, sheep and goats.

These organs are known as "specified risk materials" because they have been identified as being capable of harbouring BSE infection. The requirement to remove them would apply only to animals over the age of 12 months, although the spleen of sheep and goats of any age would also have to be taken out.

Dr Cunningham announced the ban after the European Union's standing veterinary committee voted yesterday to postpone the introduction of abattoir controls throughout Europe. These had been due to come into force at the start of next year. Most EU states see no reason why they should be subject to the same restrictions as Britain.

Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

It was not clear last night what impact Dr Cunningham's action would have. The biggest EU exporter of beef to Britain last year was Ireland, which sent 54,600 tonnes, but the Dublin Department of Agriculture said last night that Ireland already complied with British requirements.

The European Commission said that two other leading



Farmers at a rally at Westpoint exhibition centre near Exeter. They want £980 million compensation for the damaging effects of a strong pound

suppliers to Britain, Holland (17,300 tonnes) and France (11,700 tonnes), were also thought to comply. But Germany (5,330 tonnes) does not have such safeguards and says it sees no reason why it should be subject to the same restraints as Britain.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU

suppliers, with the exception of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to be marketable in Britain. This is apparently because only Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease. In 1996

Brizain imported 9,200 tonnes of beef from Australia, 8,200 tonnes from Uruguay, 7,600 tonnes from Argentina, 6,900 tonnes from Botswana, 5,200 tonnes from Zimbabwe, 4,000 tonnes from Brazil, 3,900 tonnes from New Zealand and 2,800 tonnes from the United States. Nearly all Britain's

imports of sheep meat come from Australia and New Zealand, which are exempt.

Dr Cunningham admitted yesterday that he could not stop foreign meat being imported, but officials said he had the power to ban its sale if it did not meet British requirements. "I cannot ban imports of beef — though I think

farmers would like me to — but that would be a matter that would have me straight into the European Court," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme. "But I can insist that it can only come in if it has had the specified risk materials removed and been treated the same as British beef."

The ban on beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight, will be enforced under Section 16 of the Food Safety Act 1990. These are its main provisions:

- Any butcher, shop, hotel, restaurant or caterer that sells cattle bones, or bone marrow, or cuts of beef containing bone direct to the "ultimate consumer" is committing a criminal offence.
- Offenders run the risk of a fine of up to £5,000 and/or up to six months' imprisonment if convicted in a magistrate's court, or up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

- The ban applies to cattle bone and beef on the bone from any source at home or abroad. Local authority environmental health and trading standards officers will be required to enforce it.
- Beef on the bone is still legal from cattle under six months old, but few animals are ready for slaughter before that age.

- The main outlawed cuts are ribs of beef (baron of beef, forerib, wing rib, flail rib, flank and brisket, T-bone steak and oxtail). Up to now these have accounted for 30,000 tonnes, or 5 per cent, of beef sales a year, a trade worth £150 million.
- Butchers and restaurants are still allowed to have beef carcasses

- on their premises provided they take the meat off the bone before sale to their customers. This means, for example, that the fillets and sirloins contained within a T-bone steak can still be sold once cut from the bone.
- Restaurants are prohibited from using any cattle bones or bone marrow in the preparation of food for their customers.
- Manufacturers of soups, broths, bouillons, stocks cubes and gravy granules cannot use bone of British origin as a raw material but may use imported bones, even from EU countries that have had cases of BSE. The level of BSE in these countries is not considered high enough to warrant a ban.
- Butchers are banned from selling cattle bones direct to customers to feed to their dogs, but may sell the bones to pet feed manufacturers to be included in dog and cat food.

#### WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT: A GUIDE TO THE NEW FOOD SAFETY LAW ON BEEF THAT TOOK EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT

## Lamb sheepish as bone test goes all to pot

■ In the best tradition of food writers, Robin Young cried 'Foul' when he accepted the Meat and Livestock Commission's challenge to taste the difference — and lost

I FACED the beef bone challenge yesterday, and won. Unfortunately, for all the wrong reasons.

The Meat and Livestock Commission's grandly titled Sensory Evaluation Department had arranged a controlled test to determine whether I could tell beef cooked off the bone from that cooked with the bone in.

Accepted wisdom among chefs, cooks and cookery writers is that the bone, which government regulations ban from today, makes beef juicier and more flavoursome. That view has had the support of, among many others, Delia Smith, Gary Rhodes, the Two Fat Ladies and our own Times Cook, Frances Bissell.

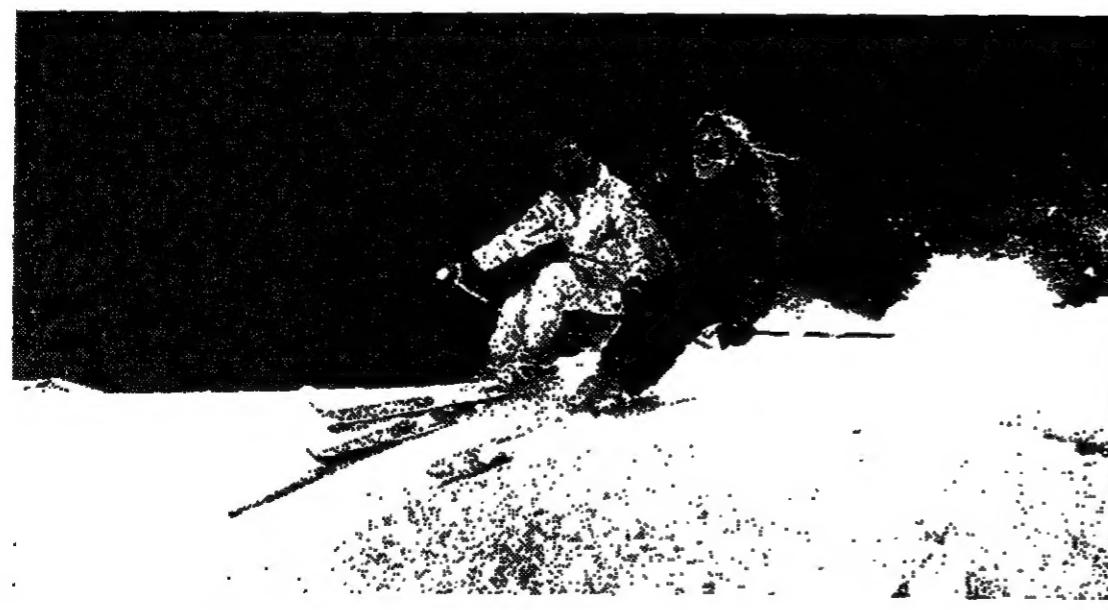
The meat industry's Sensory Evaluation Department was out to dispel that impression yesterday. "We want to reassure consumers that they are losing nothing by way of flavour or cooking quality," said the British meat consumer marketing manager, whose name just happens to be Chris Lamb.

"Our tests have shown that consumers cannot tell the difference between beef cooked on the bone and boneless joints."

So now, the big question was: could I? For the trial, at the Good Housekeeping Institute in West London, they had taken fore ribs of beef, cut joints in half and boned one half while leaving the bone in the other.

My conclusion is supported by Frances Bissell. "Of course, the beef on the bone should not be cooked longer," she said. "The bone is not part of the meat, but is a good conductor of heat. It helps the beef cook more quickly." Sorry, Mr Lamb. I hope you are feeling a little sheepish.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

HOME NEWS 5

# Clark says spoof diary harms his good name

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by a series of newspaper articles that appeared under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Mr Clark, who is seeking damages and an injunction preventing the *Evening Standard* from further publication of "Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary" fears that readers do not realise the true author is Peter Bradshaw, a staff writer on the newspaper.

Although Mr Bradshaw's name appears in bold type at the top of the weekly articles, Mr Clark's photograph is prominently displayed. The accounts are written in the first person and refer to places that Mr Clark mentions in his best-selling 1993 diaries, including his homes in the Albany, Piccadilly, and Saltwood Castle in Kent.

"What greater damage could there be to an author than to present another man's words as his?" said Geoffrey Hobbs, QC, for Mr Clark.

Mr Clark was not suing for defamation or seeking to prevent the newspaper publishing clear "spoofs", Mr Hobbs



Hastings refused to drop the spoof diary

said. "His sole ambition is to prevent the *Evening Standard* from publishing parodies without making it clear that he is not the author," he said.

The court was told that the first spoof article was published soon after Mr Clark won the Conservative nomination for the seat of Kensington and Chelsea in January.

Shortly afterwards Max Hastings, editor of the *Evening Standard*, had offered Mr Clark £60,000 to write a

weekly diary for the newspaper, commenting on current affairs. Mr Clark had refused the offer, which was substantially less than he was receiving for his column in the *New York Times*.

A few weeks after Mr Clark's rejection a second parody appeared under the heading "Alan Clark's Secret Election Diary". Mr Justice Lightman was told. The title of the spoof articles was changed after the general election. During conversations in April and May, including one chance meeting at the Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Clark asked Mr Hastings to make the true authorship clear. But Mr Hastings had refused, claiming that the articles were "the most popular thing in the paper".

Mr Bradshaw's efforts were even praised by Clive James, the television presenter and satirist, who wrote in a note to Mr Bradshaw that he was "lost in admiration".

The court was told that *Evening Standard* journalists gave information about Mr Clark's movements to Mr Bradshaw as background for the diary. "Generally the tone is whimsical," Mr Hobbs said. "Some parts are quite ludicrous in order to create a humorous effect. Even so,



Alan Clark leaving the High Court yesterday. He rejected a £60,000 offer to write a diary in the *Evening Standard*

there's no reason why it couldn't have been written by Alan Clark."

But Peter Prescott, QC, for the *Evening Standard*, asked numerous witnesses whether they believed that stories in the spoof diary could possibly have been written by the real Mr Clark. In one extract, the diary told of the exuberant reaction of women supporters on hearing that Mr Clark was their new MP. "Have you ever

laboured under the impression that the ladies at his constituency adoption meeting cheered and flung their undergarments at him?" Mr Prescott asked Graham Halkerton, a witness for Mr Clark. Mr Halkerton, a barrister, replied: "I wouldn't be surprised at the blue-rinse brigade at Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Party. They adore him. He's their ideal candidate."

In a further spoof Mr Clark apparently confided to his

readers that he had enjoyed a drunken lunch at Wiltons (a fashionable restaurant in his constituency), forgotten to go to a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute where he was to be a guest speaker, and given a "lying" excuse.

Was it really credible, Mr Prescott asked, that Mr Clark should admit to these antics in the middle of a general election campaign? Mr Halkerton said he could quite imagine

Mr Clark, or anyone else, having a drunken lunch but acknowledging that the other matters were "rather odd".

Peter Luff, the Tory MP for Mid Worcestershire, said that he had read two diaries before realising they were spoofs. In one diary the writer had said that Anne Widdecombe, then Prisons Minister, had had her neck bolts airbrushed out of her election photographs.

The case continues.

## Briton in court over mountain bus crash

FROM JEAN-PIERRE BENOIT  
IN ALBERTVILLE

A FRENCH prosecutor yesterday demanded a two-month suspended sentence and 11,000 franc (£1,100) fine for the British driver of a tour bus which crashed in the Alps, killing three Bolton teenagers last July.

The driver, James Shaw, appeared in court at Albertville, in the Savoie, yesterday to face manslaughter charges in connection with the crash, in which the three died and 25 others were injured, when the hired French bus plunged 60 ft from a mountain road into a ravine at Moutiers.

He also faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and failure to control the vehicle. A verdict will be delivered on January 5.

Mr Shaw, of Droylsden, Manchester, told the court through an interpreter: "As far as I am concerned, it was driving safely. It was a winding road, narrow in places. The surface was in bad condition."

Jean-Pierre Beroud, the presiding judge, said the road had recently been resurfaced. "It seems to me there was a bump or a hole," replied Mr Shaw. Asked if the coach had toppled over towards the right, he said: "Possibly, I tried to put it back on the road."

Nicola Moore, 16, Keith Riddings, 14, and Robert Boardman, 15, died in the crash.

## Thief who won Iron Cross dies

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

A SAFECRACKER turned double agent who was awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler while spying for the British has died aged 83.

Eddie Chapman was in prison in Jersey in 1940 when the Channel Islands were invaded by the Germans. The Germans took up Chapman's offer to spy for them, but when he was parachuted into Britain he got word to Scotland Yard about what had happened, and was duly asked by MI5 to act as a double agent under the codename Zig Zag.

When he was parachuted into Britain for the second time, he landed on concrete, knocking out all his teeth and damaging his back. For his efforts on behalf of Germany, he was awarded the Iron Cross in 1944.

Towards the end of the war, Chapman's counter-intelligence work helped to

misdirect many V1 and V2 bombs away from central London. The British pardoned him of all the crimes he committed before the war.

His wartime exploits, which included the attempted sabotage of British ships in Lisbon with explosives disguised as lumps of coal, were used as the basis for the 1967 film *Triumph of the Will*, in which Chapman was played by Christopher Plummer, alongside Yul Brynner.

After the war, Chapman lived in some style in Spain and Amersham, Buckinghamshire. He was also a regular at the Star Tavern in Belgrave, whose patrons came from both sides of the tracks.

Chapman, who was married with a daughter and four grandchildren, will be buried in a private ceremony. The funeral will be held this Thursday in Amersham.

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## Sergeant wins his job back by a nose

By MICHAEL EVANS

AN ARMY sergeant who was dismissed from the service in disgrace after biting the nose of a fellow non-commissioned officer at a night club in Nairobi, Kenya, won his career back yesterday after a High Court ruling.

Sergeant Colin Murray, of the 1st Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment (1 RSME) at Chatham, Kent, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, reduced to the ranks and dismissed from the Army at a court martial last year.

He had pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding, but claimed his action was the result of taking an antimalarial drug, melfloquine.

Despite an unblemished Army career, Sergeant Murray's defence was not accepted. However, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Hooper, yesterday allowed Sergeant Murray's appeal and quashed the sentence after ruling that the court martial had unfairly failed to give reasons for this.

A spokesman for the Army said Sergeant Murray, 38, would have his rank reinstated, would be entitled to a full pension, back pay and could return to his job immediately.

# Search for Fiat in Diana crash is abandoned

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Séraphin may end inquiry next month

THE French magistrate leading the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales is preparing to wind up his inquiry after a huge costly and fruitless search for a white Fiat Uno that may have collided with the Princess's car moments before the accident.

Judge Hervé Séraphin may declare the investigation complete and close the case as early as next month, according to a report yesterday in the French magazine *Voice*. Paint scrapes apparently left by a Fiat Uno were discovered on the body of the wrecked Mercedes, but investigators believe there is little hope of tracing the missing car — a monumental task that could involve more than 40,000 vehicle checks in the Paris region alone and which, even if successful, would be unlikely to result in a prosecution.

The cost of the investigation — over £200,000 — has been criticised, and judicial sources say that Judge Séraphin wants to avoid further expenditure of time and effort by the elite Brigade Criminelle.

Nine photographers and a motorcycle driver may still face manslaughter charges for pursuing the Mercedes carrying the Princess and her friend Dodi Fayed on the night of the tragedy, but investigators are

increasingly convinced that the crash was a routine traffic accident, primarily caused by drunk-driving and excessive speed. Blood tests showed that Henri Paul, the chauffeur who also died at the crash scene, was well over the alcohol limit for driving.

A civil suit could still be brought by the families of the accident victims against the Ritz hotel. M. Paul's employers, The Paris Ritz is owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son Dodi was killed in the crash.

Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, said that

Mr Al Fayed wanted the investigation "to move as rapidly as possible to a conclusion" but that the failure of the French police to find the missing Fiat left "a big question mark" over the tragedy. "Instead of trying to find the car, perhaps they should be finding out why it has been secreted, disappeared, and who would have had an interest in doing so."

Sources close to the investigation originally suggested that the investigation would last well into next year, but tracking down the missing Fiat Uno, which was made between 1983 and 1989 and offered the only strong lead in the case, has been an enormous and possibly futile task.

Police began interviewing Fiat Uno drivers in the Paris region on November 4, with 20 officers working full-time. Owners were asked to account for the whereabouts of their cars on the night of the crash. In August, those unable to provide convincing responses had their cars examined for evidence of collision damage or respraying. Just 15 cars have been forensically examined to date.

Police investigators began their inquiries with registered Fiat owners in the west of Paris, simply on the basis that the car was apparently head-

ing in that direction out of the Place de l'Alma underpass. Many owners, having moved or sold their cars, failed to respond to the police summons. Further complicating the task of police, registration documents in France do not always note the colour of cars.

Critics have complained that the Brigade Criminelle would be better deployed tracking down a serial killer at large in eastern Paris.

Mr Cole did not rule out the possibility of a civil action against the Ritz, but added that any civil suit would be

likely to invoke the responsibility of the hotel management, rather than Mr Al Fayed, who he said was simply a "shareholder" in the Ritz. Police scientists are still working on the forensic examination of the wrecked Mercedes. Trevor Rees-Jones, the Princess's bodyguard and sole survivor of the crash, is also expected to be interviewed again by investigators.

As soon as the French investigation is closed, the British coroner can begin his own report into the death of the Princess and of Mr Fayed.

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## Man being watched is jailed for murder

The Greater Manchester Police force has defended its actions after a convicted paedophile was convicted of murdering his homosexual lover in a house undercover officers were watching.

Mikhail Gallatinov, 23, was jailed for life at Manchester Crown Court for strangling Adrian Kaminsky, 28, at his home in Moston, Manchester. Gallatinov thwarted police efforts to prevent the murder by strangling his victim on the day before he told the undercover officer he would do so. Detective Superintendent Ron Gaffey said: "We can only act on what information is available to us."

### Midweek trap

The midweek lottery traps people into playing even though they do not want to. The researchers, from Northumbria University, found the midweek event excited only 18 per cent of 485 weekend players. However, nearly all intended playing on Wednesday because they would be upset if their numbers came up and they did not have a ticket.

### Pavarotti cancels

He forced Luciano Pavarotti to pull out of an appearance in Verdi's *Requiem* at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham last night and a concert with the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall in London tomorrow. A spokesman said he had been advised not to travel. Roberto Alagna is flying in from Milan to take his place.

### Shower power

A crackdown on "super power showers", which use more water than a bath, is being urged by the Water Regulations Advisory Committee to help reduce consumption in homes after recent droughts. It wants new rules to empower water companies to withhold consent to fit such showers unless the household is put on a water meter.

### Return journey

Fifty passengers are to get refunds after their train failed to climb Lickey Bank, the longest rail incline in Britain. After trying for 90 minutes, it had to roll gently back to Worcester, where Central Trains were able to divert it onto a more level route. Central Trains blamed leaves which had pressed into a paste.

### CORRECTION

The Adam Smith Institute does not have charitable status, contrary to an article of December 12.

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JPOL

# Jail for killers of couple who escaped Stalin's death camps

By PAUL WHITTAKER

**AN ELDERLY Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered almost 50 years later by their fellow countrymen.**

Joseph Ploch, 86, and his wife Kornela, 81, were tortured and left to die after three intruders broke into their home in Fulham, southwest London, last June.

Mrs Ploch, who had her wedding and engagement rings ripped from her fingers during the attack, was kicked in the face while lying on the floor downstairs and her husband suffocated to death upstairs as the gang tried to force them to reveal the whereabouts of a secret £40,000 cash hoard. The couple, who had been married for 60 years, were bound hand and foot with masking tape. Their bodies lay undiscovered for almost a week.

Their killers, Robert and Mariusz Maczka — two Polish brothers who entered Britain on student visas — have been jailed for life for the brutal murders. Yesterday at the Old Bailey a third member of the gang, Rafał Gutarewicz, 24, was sentenced to 11 years in jail for robbery.

The three men, who came to England from Poland in the summer of 1995, breached their conditions of entry by overstaying and working in the hotel and catering trade.

The court heard that on the way to England the brothers had selected elderly victims in Holland to fund their stay in the West.

The day of the killings wasn't the first time the couple



Joseph and Kornela Ploch were tortured and left to die at their £400,000 London home by the three-man gang



had met the gang. On an earlier visit the men had cased the Ploch's £400,000 home, posing as journalists researching a story on the couple's lives.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney QC, yesterday lifted reporting restrictions concerning the life sentences imposed on the

brothers in June this year. The case could not be reported until after Gutarewicz's retrial on the robbery charge.

Robert Maczka, 20, pleaded guilty to both murders and robbery. His 22-year-old epileptic brother, who admitted only robbery, was found guilty of the murder of Mr Ploch and the manslaughter of his wife.

Gutarewicz, who was seen wearing Mr Ploch's clothing after the attack, was cleared of murdering the pair in the June trial but faced a retrial this month for robbery and the manslaughter of Mrs Ploch. He was cleared of the manslaughter charge on the judge's directions but found guilty of robbery.

In June the Common Sergeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, QC, told the brothers: "This was a cold-blooded murder of an old and infirm couple. You showed them no mercy, having assaulted them and in the case of Mrs Ploch with great ferocity. You left them tied by the hands and feet to die without even making a call for an ambulance."

A senior policeman who investigated the murders said the case highlighted the problem of criminal elements slipping into Britain after the break-up of the Soviet Bloc.

Detective Inspector Anthony Hubert, who described the crime as a brutal and cowardly attack, said: "Increasingly

people from the former Warsaw Pact countries are coming here on visitors' passports and student passes. One minute they were under communism and then all of a sudden they find themselves in the West and everything they have seen on TV is open to them. It is a temptation. They want to get it and grab it."

The officers said it was very easy to get a job in the catering and hotel trade in Britain with no questions asked. He said this was where they met and formed their plan.

The three were living with a large group of their fellow countrymen in a flat at Lanroy Point, in Fulham, just two miles from the Ploch's large house.

During the raid, the gang found £10,000 in cash but missed a further £30,000 hidden in the cellar. They also stole clothing before calling a minicab to take them away.

Mr Ploch was a former history professor and his wife an actress. He worked in Britain as a draughtsman.

## Yard told to act on cost of sick leave

By STEWART TENDER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

**SCOTLAND YARD has been urged to review its sick-pay and pensions systems after it emerged that sickness and injury cost the Metropolitan Police £72 million last year.**

A National Audit Office study showed that 400,000 working days were lost last year because of sick leave, and on any one day about 1,500 officers out of the Metropolitan force of 27,000 were absent. The report urges the Yard to examine how its sick-pay system works, and questions its housekeeping. Long-term sickness and medical retirements have been rising throughout the 1990s although injuries on duty have fallen. Every day's reduction in the average sickness rate of 14.4 days a year — compared with a national average of eight days — would save the force another £6.3 million.

The current system, says the report, might encourage officers to stay off work for long periods in the hope of eventually getting medical retirement with an enhanced pension. It could also be used by those trying to avoid disciplinary hearings, a problem that the Yard has acknowledged to MPs in hearings on police complaints and discipline.

A quarter of all officers on sick leave were absent for longer than six months, and the figure is now higher than at any time in the past three years. Stress and spinal and neck injuries account for 38 per cent of illnesses.

At the end of the financial year, 302 officers had been off work longer than six months and were still receiving full pay. Since 1995 chief constables have been able to reduce sick pay if an officer is away longer than six months; 1,000 officers have taken long-term sick leave since 1995, and 90 per cent have continued to get full pay after six months. The rules for civilian staff are tougher; 90 per cent of the staff on sick leave for long periods have had their pay cut.

Since 1991-92 the number of officers leaving on sickness grounds has doubled. The NAO says: "Early retirement on medical grounds is financially advantageous to officers and correspondingly costly to forces. The arrangements provide incentives to officers to take long-term sick leave."



Gang members: brothers Mariusz, left, and Robert Maczka were jailed for life. Rafał Gutarewicz, right, was sentenced to 11 years at the Old Bailey yesterday

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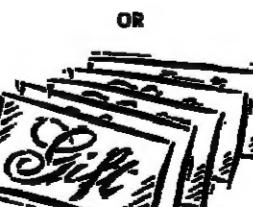
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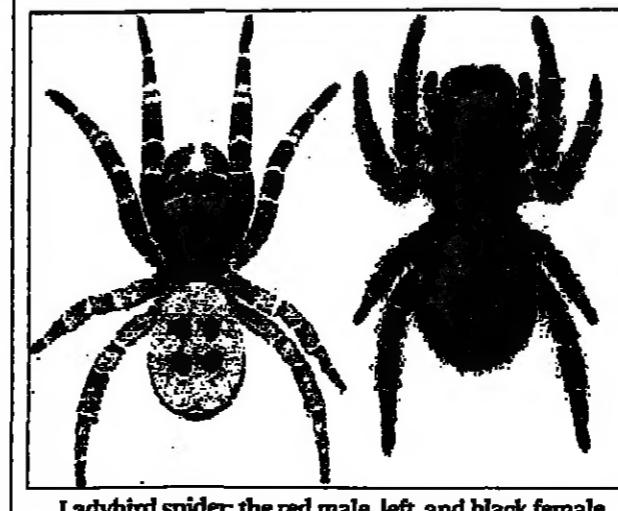
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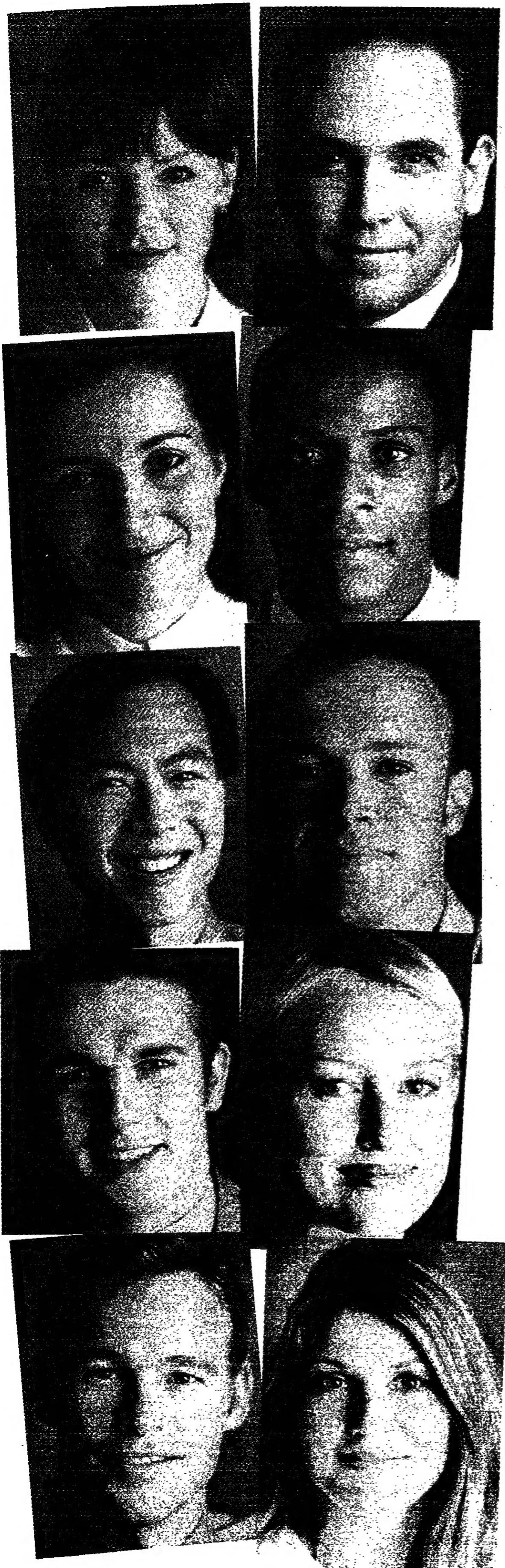
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Ladybird spider: the red male, left, and black female



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Angus Colville

## Lost air ticket led to murder

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A SCOTTISH aristocrat was stabbed to death as he went to get a replacement for a lost airline ticket while on a yachting holiday off Guatamala, Central America, an inquest was told yesterday.

Angus Colville, 58, brother of Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, had intended to spend the last few days walking in the mountains, but instead had to go to Guatamala City to pick up a new ticket. The inquest at Tavistock, Devon, where he was a partner in a firm of chartered surveyors, was told that Mr Colville was attacked outside a sports stadium.

Julie Johnson, British vice-consul in Guatemala, said in a statement that the only known witness to the murder had told police Mr Colville had been beaten by two men before he was killed. A waist bag with money and documents was taken but the killers left a watch and a ring.

Timothy Trafford, who owned the yacht on which Mr Colville had been staying, said his friend had been advised to take taxis in unsafe areas.

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded.

# Damning report condemns Met's Lawrence inquiry

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD'S inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority yesterday.

The report was drawn up for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, based on the findings of an inquiry by Kent police after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled. Mr Lawrence, 18, was stabbed by a gang of white youths in April 1993 as he waited for a bus in Eltham, South London. Nobody has been convicted.

Concentrating much of its criticism on Scotland Yard's first inquiry, the report paints a picture of an investigation during which senior officers were divided over who should be in charge, arrests were rushed, possible leads were ignored and detectives wrongfully claimed they were hampered by lack of help from the public. When Scotland Yard reviewed the investigation the errors were not identified. Subsequent investigations were also flawed.

For a force that prides itself on the way it handles murder

cases the report will make doleful reading. At least one senior officer admitted privately that the report would have repercussions for all forces.

The authority's report demolishes Scotland Yard's claims that attempts to track down Mr Lawrence's killers were hampered by a "wall of silence" by local people. In fact there was "considerable evidence" that the people of Eltham had come forward, sometimes reluctantly, with valuable information about five white youths who were subsequently arrested for the knife attack.

The report said: "The early information was vital. It could only have come from sources close to the suspects since street rumour and gossip would not have had time to develop." The murder inquiry should have focused on this but there were numerous weaknesses in this area that have been identified by the complaint investigation.

Four days after the murder, there were 20 pieces of information pointing to the suspects who were eventually arrested. Some came from known sources and the anonymous sources could have been

identified if appropriate action had been taken, the report said. Information acquired from a local resident available during the first weekend after the murder might have produced evidence placing the suspect at the scene on the night of the killing, but it was not followed up for three days.

Within the first few weeks of the investigation, there was information from a number of sources, including police informants, that would have corroborated information linking four of the suspects to other knife attacks.

During the initial weekend there was even evidence available to arrest two of the suspects for a separate offence of attempted murder. "This might have assisted the investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder. However, the detective superintendents responsible did not take this opportunity, although they were aware it was available," the report said.

"Their reasons for this decision will be one of a number of professional judgments to be commented on in the investigating officers' final report."

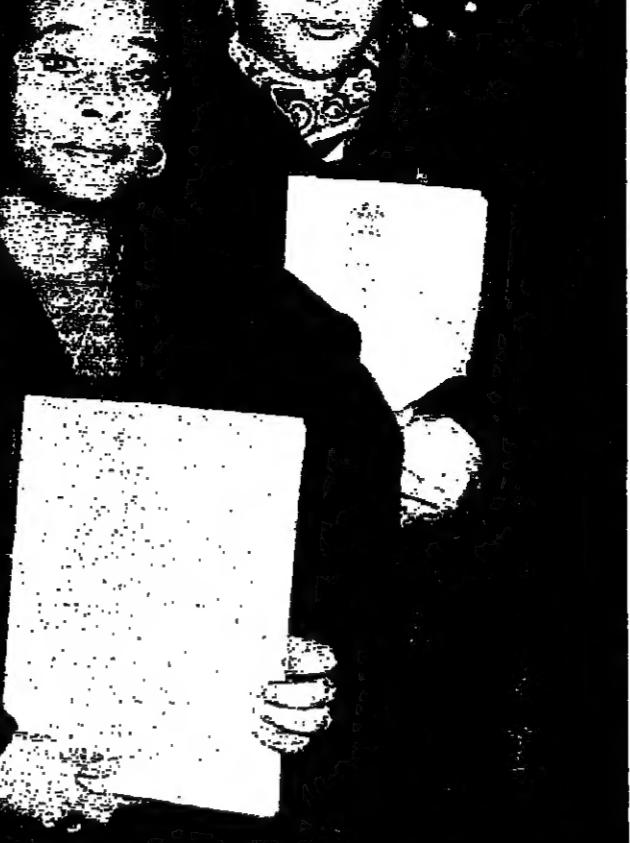
It said that poor handling of the identification evidence might have led to one attacker being overlooked completely by the murder inquiry team. "An evaluation of the material shows that the murder investigation failed to analyse available information effectively by confusing a distinguishing feature of the suspects," the report said.

The report was also sharply critical of a surveillance operation mounted on a number of suspects and of the standard of the forensic tests carried out at the homes of those arrested.

In general, the investigation has identified weaknesses in the leadership, direction and quality of work of the first murder investigation," it said. Information was not dealt

with systematically and lacked the necessary analytical approach to maximise its potential to produce evidence. The quality of supervision of officers was poor and assumptions were made about the standard of work being carried out that would not have withstood proper scrutiny.

The report said that arrests were rushed, ill-prepared and ill-planned. The detective superintendent in charge of the investigation was unavoidably absent at a crucial time shortly after the arrests of the main suspects, when two senior officers each insisted



Neville and Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's parents, and his sister Cheryl Sloley outside the Home Office yesterday with the Police Complaints Authority report

that the other was responsible for the conduct of the investigation.

The report said that much information might never have come to light but for the persistence of Mr Lawrence's parents, Doreen and Neville, who were bitterly critical of the police handling of the case. "Nor would the lines of inquiry now made available to the Metropolitan Police Service by the complaint investigation have been identified."

Last night Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said some officers may face disciplinary hearings over the investigation. Sir Paul said he accepted the main findings of the report and that there had been problems during the initial stages of the inquiry that might have affected the outcome. He said: "I have had the privilege of meeting the Lawrences twice. I have expressed my regret, my apologies that this didn't lead to a prosecution."

The report will now be passed to Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the retired judge heading the public inquiry into the killing which is due to start taking evidence in public in February.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Three die in fire at home for elderly

Three women were killed and two other people injured after a fire swept through a residential care home for the elderly yesterday.

Neighbours managed to pull one man clear of the burning four-bed-room bungalow and a care worker managed to escape by climbing out of a window. Both were treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Police said they believed the fire at the home in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, had started accidentally.

### Squirrels claim

An allegation that two royal gardeners drowned squirrels in the grounds of Kensington Palace is being investigated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "It is not strictly illegal to kill them, but it has to be done humanely, certainly not by drowning," a spokesman said.

### RAF near-miss

An RAF Tornado came close to a mid-air crash when the pilot failed to see a Jersey European Airways plane, with 27 passengers, until the last moment, according to the Joint Airprox (aircrash) Working Group. Both aircraft had to make emergency turns near Exeter airport on April 8.

### Shops accused

Environmentalists accused the big high-street retailers of assisting the destruction of the world's forests by failing to stock Christmas cards and wrapping paper made of recycled material. Up to a quarter of a million trees will be felled to provide such goods this year. Friends of the Earth said.

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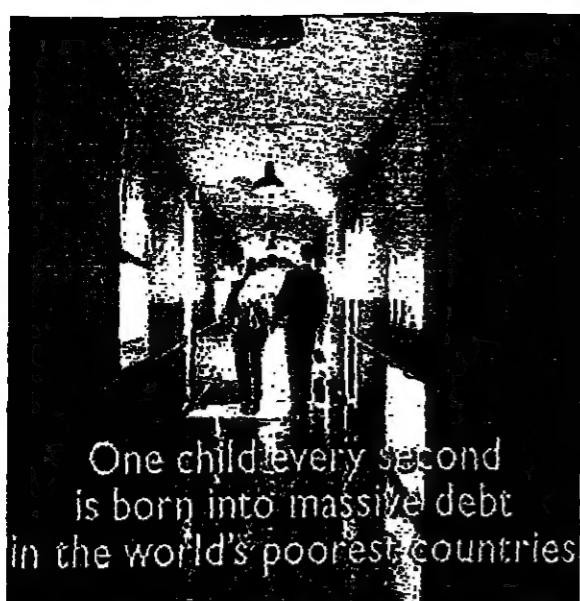
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| France    | 13p       | 28p   | 54%  | Netherlands   | 13p       | 28p   | 54%  |
| Germany   | 13p       | 28p   | 54%  | New Zealand   | 27p       | 49p   | 45%  |
| Hong Kong | 27p       | 58p   | 53%  | South Africa  | 35p       | 79p   | 56%  |
| India     | 45p/54p   | £1.20 | 59%  | Spain         | 23p       | 36p   | 36%  |
| Ireland   | 13p       | 23p   | 43%  | Switzerland   | 20p       | 28p   | 28%  |
| Italy     | 23p       | 36p   | 36%  | Taiwan        | 41p       | £1.08 | 62%  |
| Japan     | 18p/22p   | 77p   | 74%  | USA           | 7p/13p    | 24p   | 59%  |

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# Charity stunned by ban on TV advert



One child every second is born into massive debt in the world's poorest countries

Stills, above and right, from Christian Aid's commercials



**Christian Aid's campaign to relieve suffering caused by Third World debt has been ruled to be too political, reports Carol Midgley**

CHRISTIAN Aid condemned as "absurd" yesterday a decision by advertising watchdog to ban a campaign that highlights the human suffering caused by Third World debt.

The charity pledged to use other media, such as the Internet, to spread its message after the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre (BACC) ruled that two advertisements breached Article Ten of the Independent Television Commission's code.

The commercials, lasting 60 seconds and 30 seconds, show sinister debt collectors snatching a dummy from a baby and seizing a syringe from a nurse, with the slogan: "One child every second is born into

massive debt in the world's poorest countries."

They were due to be shown in the new year ahead of the G8 industrial nations' discussion of the debt crisis. But the BACC said the advertisements violated the ITC code that prevents commercials from showing any political partiality or being used for political ends.

Andrew Simms, of Christian Aid, said it was ridiculous that it was possible to advertise nuclear power stations but not the suffering of human beings.

The advert was an attempt to illustrate the United Nations' warning that, without dramatic action to reduce Third World debt before the millennium, 21 million children

could die. In Africa there were countries that were spending more paying back their debt to the West than they were on their health and education budgets.

Mr Simms said: "It's about as serious as it gets... and it's about as easy to get people interested in Third World debt as it is to get them to do their tax returns.

"If it's political to raise the issue of 21 million children possibly dying through the inadequate action of the powers that be, then on that level it might be. It's a shame the BACC couldn't ban Third World debt."

He said Christian Aid would now consider "every way possible" to get the advertisement shown, from broadcasting it on the Web, sending

videos to campaigners to show in village and church halls, and getting it screened in the cinema.

A spokesman for the BACC said the advert had been viewed and it was considered that it violated the ITC code. "We have had no dialogue with Christian Aid," he said. Article Ten states: "No advertisement may be inserted by or on behalf of any body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature and no advertisement may be directed towards any political end. No advertisement may... show partiality [in respect of] matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy".

Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat's international development spokeswoman, said Third World debt was one of the major problems of today. "Every day, thousands of children are dying because poor countries cannot afford basic healthcare and education — because their spare cash is spent on servicing debt instead of helping their own people. This is an humanitarian issue as much as it is a political issue."

The commercial was made by freelance director Mark Brozel, the man behind the BBC's *Modern Times* documentary *Mange Tout*. He said he was surprised that it had been banned from television screens. "We wanted to make a provocative but rather subtle and witty ad that didn't take a sledge-

hammer approach to the issue," he said. "As far as I am concerned it is the situation that is controversial, not the advert." Mr Simms added that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and most governments agreed there was a problem, so it was not taking a controversial stance.

Earlier this year an advertising campaign by the Vegetarian Society that linked eating red meat to contracting cancer was withdrawn after the Advertising Standards Authority said it was misleading.

In 1995, the ASA criticised the NSPCC, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the International Fund for Animal Welfare for "stretching the truth" in their campaigns.

## Alsatian licks bite rap by joining the police

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A CASE brought against a woman for having a dangerous Alsatian was dropped — because the dog has joined the police.

Anne Dent faced the allegation after her dog, Ben, tried to bite a visitor to her home at Harworth, Nottinghamshire.

But Jane Ball, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Worksop that the case had been withdrawn "because the owner has decided to channel the dog's interests in the right direction — it's going to be a police dog".

After the hearing, Mrs Ball said: "I must admit it is an unusual situation — a

first for me. The case became void because she (the defendant) no longer had the dog. It is unusual that she gave the dog to the police. To be fair, the dog was using its natural instincts. Now these instincts can be channelled to help the police."

A neighbour said: "I would not care to be alone with Ben. He could be boisterous. This seems to be the perfect solution. I hope he sinks his teeth into someone who deserves it."

□ A security guard was bitten by his own rottweiler when he slipped down a muddy bank as he chased four trespassers. Mick

## Christie killer jailed

BY JOHN VINCENT

A COCAINE addict who stabbed the brother of Olympic runner Linford Christie to death was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Simon Williams, 32, unemployed and of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of 34-year-old Russell Christie, who died from a single stab wound to the neck after a row over crack cocaine in Notting Hill, west London, last December.

The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, said that, while Christie was "quite prepared for violence", he had lost his life. He sentenced Williams to four years and three months for the manslaughter of Christie and to nine months for actual bodily harm to a London taxi driver.

## Songbird Two cleared of wild bird bloodbath



The magpie: not guilty

FOR decades they have been condemned without a fair trial. But now research has cleared the magpie and the sparrowhawk of devastating Britain's population of small birds.

A rise in numbers of the two predators over the past 25 years has coincided with major declines in populations of bullfinch, skylark, linnet, reed bunting, song thrush and tree sparrow.

Results of a new study, however, show that modern agricultural practices are the true culprits. Herbicides have virtually eliminated seed-bearing weeds from crops and winter stubble is rarely available.

The reappraisal of the

Conservation Committee, David Thomson, senior author of the report by the BTO and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said:

"There were thousands of examples and we could find no direct relationship between the increase in predators and the decline in small birds. In essence, the magpie and the sparrowhawk have been found not guilty."

BTO figures already published reveal that magpie and sparrowhawk populations will be announced today at the annual meeting of the British Ecological Society at the University of Warwick. It follows analysis of data involving 23 small-bird species, gathered at more than 100 sites over 25 years and involving nearly 100,000 hours of fieldwork by British Trust for Ornithology volunteers for the Joint Nature

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**  
**NatWest**  
**£15,000**  
**charges**  
**mistake**

Graham Walker, 48, a former builder forced to sell his four-bedroom house in Walsall in 1992 as he battled to pay interest charges, has found that NatWest overcharged him by £15,000 over four years on his £160,000 loan.

After an independent audit the bank has now conceded that it overcharged Mr Walker, now a consultant engineer, of Chelmsford, Essex.

### Flight delays

Holidaymakers are likely to face more flight delays next summer caused by air-traffic-control problems, it emerged, after figures showed that such delays in Europe rose by 6 per cent this summer over the previous year.

### MP's damages

Labour MP Derek Foster won "substantial" damages from the Newcastle *Sunday Sun* over allegations that he had failed to give proper care and support to MP Gordon McMaster in the run-up to his death last July.

### Cook's tour

Thousands gathered at Whitby, North Yorkshire, to see off a replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour*, the ship on which he left the port in 1768 to discover Australia. The replica was returning to Fremantle after a refit.

### M-way protest

About 20 environmental protesters attempted to disrupt yesterday's opening ceremony of the 13-mile M6 extension near Blackburn, Lancashire, attended by Home Secretary Jack Straw. There were no arrests.

### Arts accolade

Sir Ernest Hall, a businessman who spent 14 years transforming a factory in Halifax into the Dean Clough arts centre, was presented with the Goodman Award by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

### Hit numbers

Callers phoning companies stayed on hold for 20 per cent longer if they were played music, researchers at Leicester University found. The Beatles were the most popular listening; sales messages were disliked.



# Lawyers' walkout leaves Carlos in trial limelight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE legal defence team of Carlos the Jackal became a one-man band yesterday, after his lawyers stormed out of a Paris court claiming that his murder trial was illegal and unjust.

Carlos, 48, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, stands accused of shooting two French Secret Service agents and their Lebanese informer in 1975.

No fewer than 29 lawyers have been advising Carlos on legal strategy, but from the start of his trial the accused terrorist mastermind has left no doubt that intends to manage his own, highly eccentric defence.

His lawyer, Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, argued that the trial should be called off immediately because Carlos had been "illegally" snatched from Sudan by French agents in 1994.

After Yves Corneloup, the presiding judge rejected the defence appeal, Mme Coutant-Peyre announced she was withdrawing from the case, along with her two fellow defence lawyers. "Your deci-

sion is contrary to the principles I am sworn to defend," the lawyer said. Judge Corneloup ordered her to continue representing Carlos, but she refused, and may now face disciplinary action by the court.

Carlos spent three years in solitary confinement in the run-up to the trial, and seemed quite unfazed to be left in legal isolation after the latest act of courtroom melodrama in what is building up to be one of the strangest legal cases of recent times.

Since French procedure calls for defendants to be represented, the court, after a recess, appointed a new attorney to defend Carlos.

Defending himself from the dock with typical gusto, Carlos launched into a fresh flurry of objections, accusing Judge Corneloup of a conflict of interest and insisting that the 1975 killings were the fault of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," the Venezuelan-born Carlos declared.

speaking French with an almost impermeable Spanish accent.

He also argued that Judge Corneloup should be disqualified from presiding since, earlier in his career, he had investigated a 1978 bombing for which Carlos was held responsible.

Carlos said that Judge Corneloup had also carried out an inquiry into the 1983 bombing of a Paris restaurant in which Françoise Roderski, the head of the terrorist victims' support group SOS Attentats, was injured.

SOS Attentats is representing the families of the men murdered in 1975 as civil plaintiffs, and on the opening day of the trial last Friday Carlos argued that the group was "Zionist, racist and revisionist" and should be prevented from participating.

Judge Corneloup, whose tolerance of Carlos's theatrical tendencies may be wearing thin, rejected that appeal and flatly refused to halt the trial, pointing out that his capture had already been approved by France's highest court.



Homeless Russian men sleeping in Moscow yesterday after the city suffered its coldest mid-December night in a century as the temperature fell to -27C (-17F). Four people died, 160 were taken to hospital and schools were forced to shut

## Danes play host to suspected Bosnian war criminal

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN BIJELINA

EMBARRASSED Danish officials have admitted that a suspected Bosnian Serb war criminal spent a week in their country observing last month's local elections. His travel arrangements in and out of Bosnia were made by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ljubisa Sasic — nicknamed "Maus" — is said by many international and local observers to have played a lead role in the start of Bosnia's bloody collapse. He admits being a pivotal figure in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Bijelina, the most important town in northeast Bosnia.

which coincided with some of the war's worst atrocities.

Mix-ups and administrative bungles seem to have led to Mr Sasic's invitation to Denmark as part of a group of Bosnian observers who left Sarajevo on November 13. A convert to the politics of Biljana Plavsic, the Western-backed Bosnian Serb President, Mr Sasic was selected as a suitable witness to the democratic process by the National Assembly of Danish Municipalities. After being brought to the Bosnian capital by the OSCE from Bosnian Serb territory, he was flown by Austrian Airlines to Vienna and then on to Copenhagen.

"We found out just about as soon as he'd taken off that he had a history,"

said a Danish source in Sarajevo yesterday.

Alarm bells were, meanwhile, ringing inside the Bosnian Government, which had been telephoned by angry Muslims from the Austrian Airlines flight after it reached Vienna. With no known indictment or arrest warrant for Mr Sasic, however, nothing could be done and he continued to Denmark. Danish and OSCE officials helped to reroute his trip back to Bosnia via the Serbian capital, Belgrade, after Mr Sasic said he feared he would be arrested in Sarajevo.

The OSCE has wiped its hands of the affair, saying it was asked only at the last minute to help the Danes.

The Danish source said a well-meaning idea from municipal authority observers to the Bosnian elections had backfired.

Back in the relative sanctity of Republika Srpska, Mr Sasic said that he lived in fear of Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb hardliners. He now heads the executive board of the Democratic Party of Republika Srpska, which is fighting Radovan Karadzic loyalists for control of Bijelina, one of Republika Srpska's few towns with economic potential.

His detractors — and they are legion — accuse him of widespread ethnic cleansing in 1992 when his "Panther" paramilitaries joined forces with thugs operating under the notorious Serb warlord Arkan. Mr Sasic says he helped to move Muslims to the safety of Bosnian Federation territory or abroad, knowing that if they stayed they might be killed.

□ Washington: President Clinton visits troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina next week in a Christmas trip designed to build the case for an extended US presence in the Balkans beyond June's scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Clinton, who last visited Bosnia in January 1996, will tour Sarajevo and Tuzla, the region's biggest US base, during a whistle-stop visit. He will spend only 12 hours on the ground.

## Jobless Germans drown misery in sangria dreams

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SANGRIA, it seems, is the opiate of the German worker. Elbowing their way into the discos and clubs of the Ruhr, tens of thousands of youths are crowding into Majorca parties which reproduce all the dubious pleasures of the El Arenal resort: wet T-shirt and beer-belly contests and, of course, sangria drunk from plastic buckets with long straws.

The reason for this strange cult is the phenomenal success of a film, *Ballerman 6*, which is that rare thing, a German comedy hit. One million Germans saw it in the first five days after its release, two million people had seen it after five weeks. Viewers imitate the heroes by turning up at the cinemas in wet, grey industrial cities, wearing Bermuda shorts, straw hats and sandals, clutching six-packs of beer, ready to wage

start by vomiting on fellow airiner passengers and one gets stuck in the lavatory.

After that the film is all downhill. The heroes nearly drown in a huge sangria bucket which also contains two women in bikinis.

The serious underpinning of the Ballermann cult is that the morale of the younger members of the German working class has rarely been lower. Unemployment is at postwar record highs and is edging up towards five million. Trips to Majorca are cheap, even for the unemployed. They fly over with their friends, eat German food, get drunk on German beer and then return. *Ballerman 6* celebrates this, and probably prods the memory of many who were too comatose at the time to recall what actually happened on the island.

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# Shortages damp spirit of Cuba's Christmas cheer

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

NEWS that Cubans will be able to celebrate Christmas as a holiday for the first time in 29 years caused widespread excitement yesterday. This was tempered, however, by the fact that most Cubans have little to look forward to. Churches will be open to all, but only those with access to US dollars sent by relatives in Miami are likely to be able to enjoy traditional Christmas festivities.

Most traditional Christmas decorations are only available at a limited number of government-run, hard-currency stores. Children's toys are a rarity, and priced beyond the reach of most Cubans. Who are paid on average the equivalent in local currency, the peso, of about \$10 (£5.95) a month.

Even the traditional Cuban Christmas dinner staples, rum and pork, are almost impossible to come by in pesos. The Government is doing its best this year to make things as merry as possible by halving the price of pork and selling scarce Cuban rum and Spanish wines at rock-bottom dollar prices.

For the first time, selected dollar shops have decorated their windows with frosty Christmas scenes and stocked their shelves with plastic Christmas trees and Father

Christmases. For those who cannot afford a tree, there is a flourishing black market trade in pine-tree branches being smuggled into the capital, Havana, from the countryside.

From a purely spiritual point of view, the news has been welcomed by the Vatican. Joaquin Navarro Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said he was "grateful" and "satisfied" with the decision which was "desired by all the Cuban people" and the Cuban church. He did not comment on the fact that the holiday announced by President Castro is for this year only.

The announcement is one of a series of concessions that the Vatican had been seeking prior to a visit by the Pope to Cuba next month. It could signal the Government's willingness to give ground on other issues. The Vatican is still waiting to be allowed time on state-run Cuban television to publicise the Pope's visit. It has also asked that four open-air Masses be shown live on television. Cuba has said that may be impossible because economic cutbacks have stopped daytime broadcasts on Cuban television.

The Government has so far not responded to requests that the Vatican be allowed to control the camera angles and

## Iraq 'stalling on arms details'

Nicosia: Richard Butler, the United Nations official in charge of dismantling President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, reported little progress in talks with senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad yesterday. Michael Theodorou writes.

He said discussions on the core issue of access to dozens of restricted sites were not

over yet, but added that he was disappointed that Iraq had failed to fulfil its promises to divulge new information on its outlawed biological and chemical weapons programmes. "Biology did not present anything new at all. In fact [Iraq] gave a rather defiant statement that said 'Nothing, there is nothing,'" Mr Butler said. "Chemistry,

we are still arguing about the nerve gas called VX.'

Details emerged last night of the recent executions in Iraqi jails of 800 suspected dissidents. Relatives are being asked to pay 250,000 dinars, the equivalent of several months' wages, to collect bodies.

Leading article, page 19



President Clinton with his three-month-old, chocolate-coloured Labrador, which has joined the family cat, Socks, in the White House. The puppy is not yet named

## Record number executed in jails of US

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MORE prisoners were executed in 1997 than in any year since the United States restored the death penalty in 1976, according to the Justice Department.

Texas, which carried out exactly half of the total of 74 executions, was entirely responsible for the leap in the national figures from 45 executions in 1996. The state, which carried out only three executions in 1996, described itself as having a "backlog" of prisoners on death row until this year. Its total of 37 is the highest number of executions carried out by a single state in one year since 1930, when records began.

Virginia was far behind in second place, with nine executions. All of the 74 executed were men. Of the 70 executed by November 30, 44 were white, 24 black and two of other races. The last execution of a woman was in 1984.

Opponents of the death penalty yesterday seized on the figures as support for their case that executions are a "lottery" in which the numbers of the poorest and mentally handicapped come up most often. Donald Cabana, the former warden of Mississippi's Parchman prison, told *Vanity Fair* magazine this week that the penalty was "bingo personified".

The figures show the impact of the last year's federal Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which sharply curtailed the appeals process. The leap also reflects the growing popularity of the death penalty among state governments. Only New England is a liberal bastion.

The rise is supported by the majority of Americans. A Harris poll in 1985, when there were only seven executions, found 47 per cent opposed to the penalty and 38 per cent in favour; this year a Harris poll found nationwide support had doubled.



John Goodman, star of *Animal House*

## The booze brothers still rule on campus

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

DISGRACEFUL behaviour is flourishing in the fraternity houses of American universities. Members still drink and party, reports a disapproving team of academics in the latest issue of the *Journal of Studies of Alcohol*.

Far from setting an example, leaders of fraternities — named after the Greek alphabet — drink more, pass out more often, suffer more hangovers and take part in more fights than ordinary members. On this evidence, the comedy film *Animal House* deserves reclassification as a documentary.

The authors, from the universities of Cornell and Southern Illinois, defined "binge drinking" as five or more drinks in a row, and discovered after gathering data from 25,411 students at 61 institutions that three quarters of fraternity leaders had reached that target at least once in the previous fortnight. In sororities, 55 per cent of leaders were "binge drinkers".

Both sexes agreed that drink "facilitates sexual opportunities", with men holding the view more strongly. "Students see alcohol as a vehicle for friendship, social activity and sexual opportunity, and these beliefs clearly occur to a greater degree among Greeks [fraternity members] than non-Greeks," says Dr Cheryl Presley.

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## Mandela hands ANC leadership to sharp-suited master of survival

By SAM KILEY  
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

**WHEN** Nelson Mandela steps down as president of the African National Congress today and bows out of daily politics to enjoy being a largely ceremonial head of state for the next two years, real power in South Africa will be concentrated in the hands of a man variously described as a "delight" and a "shady manipulator".

Pipe-smoking, sharp-suited, sincere and level-headed, Thabo Mbeki, 55, is much liked and admired by South Africa's big businessmen. A long-time member of the Communist Party, he re-

cived military training in the former Soviet Union, and now often dines at the home of a former MI6 agent near Johannesburg.

His ability to sup with his former enemies reveals what his critics say is a shamelessly Machiavellian streak. To his friends, it shows he has taken Mr Mandela's mantra of reconciliation and compromise to heart. The truth lies somewhere between the two.

A dull to boring public speaker, Mr Mbeki will be elected unopposed to the presidency of the ANC on Thursday morning. Already Deputy President of South Africa, he has been running the country and chairing Cabinet meetings for

the past year. The top party post will ensure that he will also succeed Mr Mandela to the presidency in the 1999 general elections. Just as the ANC was anxious to ensure a smooth transition from white rule to democracy, so it has been keen to ensure there are no potholes in the road for Mr Mbeki. But there have been prominent casualties shamed aside by the ambitious son of Govan Mbeki, who with Mr Mandela and Walter Sisulu formed a triumvirate at the heart of the party.

The first to fall was Cyril Ramaphosa, the former general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who became the

ANC's chief negotiator in constitutional talks with the National Party government. He might have expected to be chosen as Mr Mandela's number two after the 1994 elections. Passed over, he left politics for the private sector. Bantu Holomisa, the former military leader of the Transkei homeland, left the ANC this year in a row over his publicising of corruption in the party. More recently Toky Sevale, the Premier of Gauteng province, announced he was also leaving politics after a squabble with Mr Mbeki.

His critics are quick to accuse Mr Mbeki of Stalinist tendencies over his alleged inability to tolerate

dissent and because he appears able to drive his nearest rivals into political oblivion. But Messrs Ramaphosa, Holomisa and Sevale were perhaps also seen as being a little too charismatic for the top post, not quite team players.

When asked how we will fill Mr Mbeki's shoes, Mr Mbeki's tongue-in-cheek reply was: "Well, I can't imagine that there's any such requirement. I mean, he's got very big feet. What does that mean?" Does it mean we start off by going to jail for 27 years and then sort of graduate from there, grow taller, wear those strange shirts? No, no. He said that, as it was the ANC

"organs" which decided policy just as Mr Mandela has had to consult the "movement" before taking decisions, so he would be bound by the same strictures. "There will be no sudden changes," he said.

But Mr Mbeki will face challenges spared Mr Mandela due to the reverence it is shown by South Africans both inside and outside the ANC.

The biggest may emerge from within the party, which is showing signs that its membership feels isolated from its top leaders, most of whom come from the group of exiles who spent most of their lives fighting the white regime from outside the country.

## Albright signals softer US approach on Africa

By SAM KILEY IN HARARE  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

**THE** American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards African dictators.

Briefly stopping in Harare at the end of her first tour of Africa that took her to seven countries on the continent, Mrs Albright said she had come to the continent to listen. "I have listened, and I think as a result of that I very strongly that human rights and the rule of law has to continue to be the bedrock of our relationship."

"But we have to understand the local context," she added. "We make a mistake if we think every African country is the same and we can just organise [things] the way that we think everything should be done."

After an hour-long meeting with President Mugabe, she told a Harare press conference of "the great leadership role the President has been fulfilling".

The subtle shift in American policy towards Africa was reflected at each of Mrs



Madeleine Albright relaxes at the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the last leg of a seven-nation tour of Africa

ammonium to break up demonstrations in the future," said Mr Tsvangirai, recuperating at his home on the outskirts of the capital.

The success of the strike, which ended in riots after police defied a court order to allow peaceful demonstrations in Harare and fired tear-gas into the crowd, has caused panic in Zanu ranks, too.

Outsiders wonder how long Mr Mugabe, 76, can stay in power. Few locals believe they will be successfully prosecuted.

The assault on the union leader and reports that the army was moments from intervening with bullets against strikers have left many fearing that future protests will be suppressed savagely.

"Strikes are something that we must use very sparingly and responsibly. We cannot give the Government the chance to fulfil its promise to us live

alliance". Private businesses paid their employees a full day's wage on the day of the strike, which also had the support of the conservative Commercial Farmers' Union (mostly white landowners) and the public-sector unions which, until last week, were staunchly pro-Zanu.

"How can you run a country when everyone feels alienated? Mugabe's arrogance has created a convergence of discontent," said Mr Tsvangirai.

With unemployment at least 33 per cent, inflation over

30 per cent, the Zimbabwe dollar in freefall and capital fleeing fast after the announcement of plans to seize 1,503 commercial farms without compensation, Mr Mugabe has very little good news to shore up his power base.

"The man is either mad, stupid, or both. No one here wants anything more than a change of government," said Wilson Ncube, a street cobbler. "The rich hate him more. His Government is corrupt from top to bottom."

Fuel and power levies to finance awards to veterans were shelved after the protests last week.

Many of Mr Mugabe's problems began with a campaign for compensation launched by veterans of the war against white minority rule. Their rage reached fever pitch when an investigation by the independent press revealed that the President's cronies had been awarded payouts of tens of thousands of pounds for spurious injuries sustained during the war.

Fuel and power levies to finance awards to veterans were shelved after the protests last week.

## Black Muslim leader flees Jerusalem after death threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

**LOUIS FARRAKHAN**, the American black Muslim leader, hastily cancelled a visit to Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites yesterday and crossed back into Jordan after reports of death threats by Jewish extremists.

The Nation of Islam leader, on a 52-nation world tour, caught Israel's intelligence services by surprise when he crossed the Israeli-guarded Allenby Bridge from Jordan to the

West Bank on Sunday. Yesterday, after talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza and an overnight stay in the Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah, Mr Farrakhan left as unexpectedly as he had arrived, claiming he felt unwelcome in Israel and feared for his safety.

He said that he had changed his plan after learning of planned Jewish protests against his visit to Al Aqsa Mosque in annexed east Jerusalem, the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina. "If

anything should happen to me in this land, it could not bring good results in black-Jewish relations in the US, so in the interest of peace I think it is best that I leave," he said.

Israeli officials made no secret of their relief at his quick exit. The right-wing Government had reviewed banning him from the country because of his alleged anti-Semitism, but had decided because he was travelling on an American passport and Israeli-US relations are already strained over the lack of progress in the Middle East peace

process. "I think the moment he leaves here, we can say we are blessed to be rid of this anti-Semitic and racist," said Danny Naveh, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary and a close confidant of the Prime Minister. "His meetings with the Palestinian leadership are proof of the maxim: 'Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are'."

Mr Arafat praised the black leader. "We are very happy to have this opportunity to meet our brother in our land," he said in Gaza. "We spoke in detail of all the difficulties

we are facing and how to push forward the process for peace."

■ Settler jailed: The founder of the West Bank settler movement, Moshe Levinger, was jailed for six months for assault and disturbing the peace three years ago in Hebron. Jerusalem magistrates also fined him 8,000 shekels (£1,400) as part of a plea bargain. Levinger was convicted of disturbing Muslim prayers at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs and for blocking an army commander from entering the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. (AP)

## Homeless rate soars in US

**WASHINGTON:** Soaring rates of hunger and homelessness in US cities are casting doubt on ambitious welfare reforms (Bronwen Maddox writes). City mayors are concerned by a survey of 29 cities by the United States Conference of Mayors which found that demand for food rose by 16 per cent in 1997, the largest jump for five years.

## Aristocrat's red-letter day

**MOSCOW:** A descendant of Count Grigori Orlov, a lover of Catherine the Great, has won election to the Moscow city council. Tass said Stepan Orlov, an independent, became the first aristocrat elected to a legislative body since the Russian Revolution, the agency reported. (AFP)

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# Asia appeals for global aid to steady markets

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN KUALA LUMPUR

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THE once proud leaders of the former tiger economies of South-East Asia, reeling from falling stock markets and plummeting currencies, yesterday called for international assistance in helping to curb the financial crisis gripping the region.

Even as Asian leaders met at the summit here, the Malaysian ringgit, the Thai baht and the Indonesian rupiah fell to record lows, in the latest case over continuing fears for the health of President Suharto, 76.

In a bid to reassure his countrymen, President Suharto has been shown on Indonesian television, but he remained seated. Some Indonesians fear that their leader, known to have wanted to attend the current crisis summit of the Association of

South-East Asian Nations (Asean), had suffered a stroke.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister hosting the summit this time includes Japan, China and South Korea, yesterday witnessed the ringgit fall to an embarrassing all-time low point against the US dollar.

He called for greater efforts by the United States, Europe and Japan to ease global market problems.

"Despite the economic fundamentals of the regional economies being corrected and improved through the support and advice of the International Monetary Fund, the depreciation of the currencies has continued unabated," Dr Mahathir said. "This has resulted in serious regression in the economic well-being of

the countries, their businesses and their peoples," he said, hinting at the threat to social stability caused by the turmoil in financial markets.

As the summit got under way yesterday at the luxurious Palace of the Golden Horses resort — somewhat at odds with the austerity the region will inevitably face — the Malaysian leader, 71, said that every effort should be made to remove barriers to trade and to promote greater trade and investment within Asean.

However, the grouping was not trying to establish a trading bloc. "The wealth of our countries is depleted and we no longer have the money to pay for goods imported from overseas," he said. Malaysians have been encouraged to plant vegetables in their gardens and conserve resources.

The IMF has arranged loans for the region totalling \$100 billion (£61.3 billion), but Asean leaders believe more is needed because currencies remain weak and investor confidence low. Moreover, there appears to be growing unease about the way the IMF is helping the region and Dr Mahathir believes that some of the IMF strategies should be reconsidered. He accused the IMF of looking at the macro-economic picture only, and not seeing the impact of its measures.

The three-day summit meeting was intended as a 30th anniversary party for Asean. But it was transformed into the present crisis summit with the region's financial turmoil at the top of the agenda.

The panic, which began to sweep across South Korea a few days ago, comes as the currency, the won, struggled yesterday to regain lost ground. It closed significantly higher at 1503.9 to the US dollar, but has lost nearly half its dollar value this year. The stock market rebounded, but further recovery is unlikely with economic growth set to plunge to 3 per cent.

Business, 25

## Korean shoppers rush to beat rises

FROM JENNIFER VEALE IN SEOUL

PANIC buying is sweeping South Korea, emptying supermarkets of daily staples as people try to beat price rises stemming from the deepening financial crisis. "It is a war mentality and Koreans are preparing for war," says Professor Hahm Chai Bong, a political scientist at Seoul's Yonsei University. "It's an interesting social phenomenon."

Imported and local products are disappearing from shelves or rocketing in price as consumers hoard provisions and shops pump up prices to cover mounting foreign exchange losses.

Korean housewives are scurrying to buy in bulk flour, sugar and noodles, vulner-

able to price rises because they contain imported ingredients. Yesterday Korean television showed pictures of shoppers queuing ten-deep at check-outs of discount stores. Some were pushing two or three trolleys together.

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## Hong Kong democrat cuts UK link

FROM JONATHAN MERSKY  
IN HONG KONG

EMILY LAU, Hong Kong's most vigorous and popular democrat, said yesterday that she will give up her British passport to run for the Legislative Council next year.

"The law requires all candidates for direct election not to have foreign passports. I want to stand for direct election," she said.

Hong Kong will next year hold its first elections for the council since the transfer of sovereignty to China. Since the handover the present 60 members selected by a 400-member committee appointed by Beijing, have been passing laws. They replaced the wholly elected body which the new Government expunged.

Under the Basic Law, China's mini-constitution for Hong Kong, there will be a series of four-yearly elections

to limit the number of democratically inclined candidates like Ms Lau to 12, instead of the 24 in the last elected council. The remaining 40 seats will be elected by "functional constituencies" based on occupation, some of which are very small, or by an election committee of Beijing allies. Twelve of the "functional" members may hold foreign passports.

Next year's council, like the present one, will therefore consist of many members defeated by democrats in 1995, although a public opinion poll published yesterday by the *South China Morning Post* showed that, if there were an immediate first-past-the-post election, democrats would win a substantial majority.

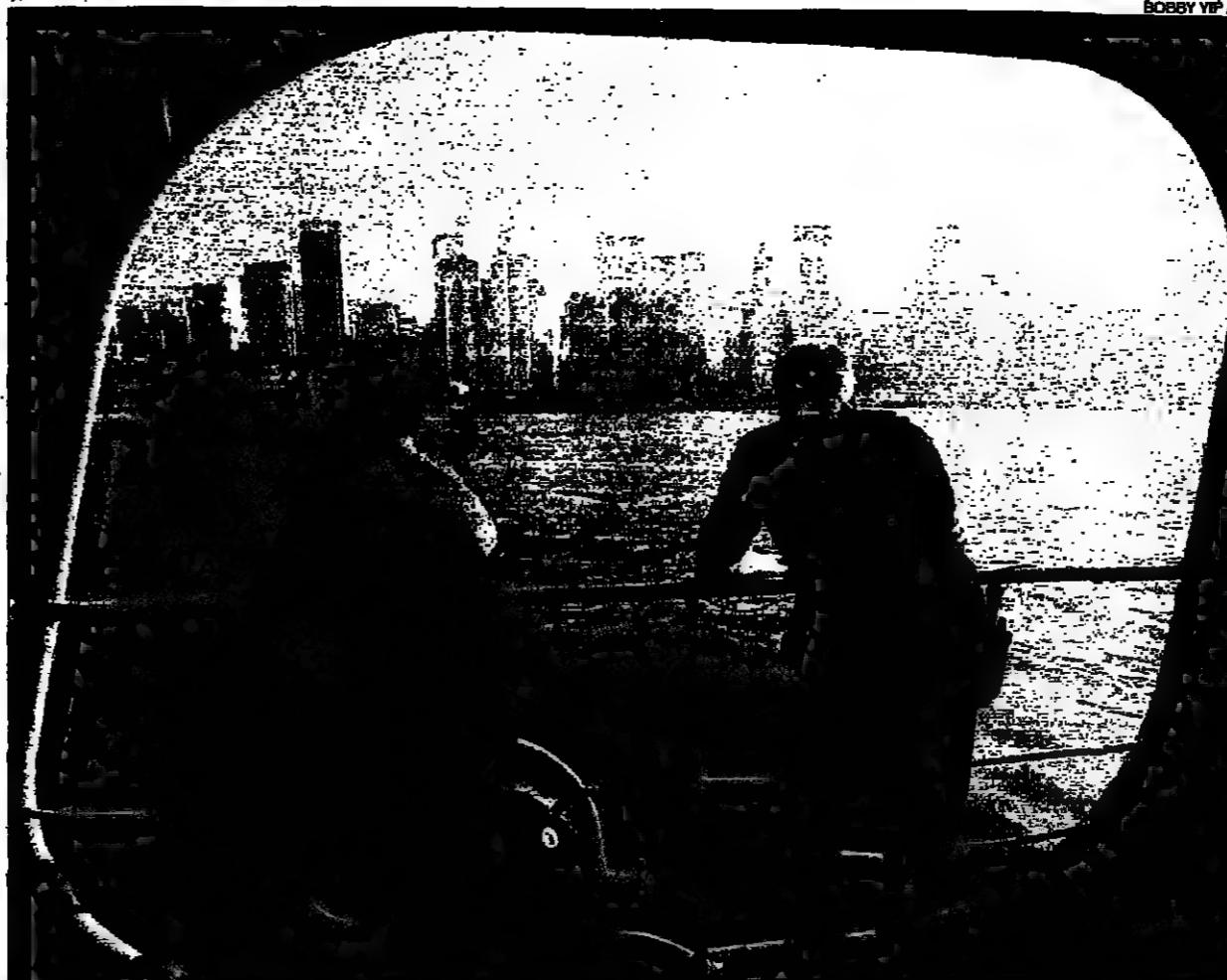
Ms Lau is determined to win one of the 20 directly elected seats, for which she must abandon her British citizenship, acquired in the

1980s. Before the handover she had often given a warning that she might leave Hong Kong. Instead she formed the Frontier Party, which stands for an immediately elected council and chief executive by a one-man, one-vote system.

In all public opinion polls during the past five years Ms Lau, 45, a council member until July, scored in the top three most popular political figures, and even without a seat she has maintained her constituency office and rousing political style.

A graduate of the University of Southern California and the LSE, until her election to the council in 1991 Ms Lau was one of Hong Kong's most outspoken journalists, a constant thorn in the side of British politicians of whom she demanded immediate and total democracy.

Letters, page 23



HMS Nottingham, with 250 servicemen on a rest and recreation sojourn, sails into the Victoria Harbour yesterday to become the first British warship to visit Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty to China

## Hun Sen's tanks pound rival's bastion

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE PRESSE  
IN BANGKOK

HUN SEN, the Cambodian leader, yesterday launched an attack supported by tanks on the last bastion of his rival Co-Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in the northwest of the country. The Thai military reported.

The battle for the border town of O'Smack broke out early in the day and continued amid fierce firefights until the afternoon, sources in the Thai task force responsible for border control said. "The fighting today was heavy," a military officer said.

The fighting broke out during an informal summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Cambodia had been due to join the nine-member grouping in July along with Laos, but its admission was postponed after the violent street battles which broke out in Phnom Penh, ousting the Prince.

The latest fighting was led by fire from seven tanks under the command of the forces of Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, the sources said, adding "several" soldiers loyal to the Prince were sent for medical care in Thailand.

Five tanks fired on the last bastion of the Prince's troops in the stronghold of O'Smack, which lies on a hilltop straddling the border with Thailand. One of two other tanks which advanced a mile from O'Smack was reported to have been destroyed.

The fighting ended after several hours of heavy artillery exchanges between the two sides, the Thai army source said, adding that several shells had fallen within Thai territory. Casualty figures were not immediately available for either side.

The two sides began battling in July, when Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh after two days of battles in Phnom Penh.



Photographed at Sheraton Hotel Des Bains, Venice Lido, Italy

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# Who will save this child?

South African doctors can't save Dorah's eyes. Perhaps their British counterparts can. Bronwen Jones appeals urgently for help

I have a friend called Dorah. She is three. They want to cut her eyes out. I know of only one way to save her from this terrible pain and loss, and that is to achieve worldwide levels of publicity that an injured child has never known. And to hope that some super-surgeon will be reached by that publicity and step in before it is too late.

Dorah lives in South Africa. The child of a child, she and her 14-year-old mother lived in a squalid camp with a blind grandmother and an alcoholic uncle. One day the shack called home caught fire. The seven-month-old baby struggled to breathe amid the flames and pushed fiery timbers away as they fell on her face. The heat burnt off her hands.

I have tried to write about Dorah before, with limited success. Many local publications react as though disabled children are another species and barely, rarely, worth a mention. Whether harmed by biology or poor parenting, they are seen as a distasteful subject: "Not our kind of story" echoes in my ears.

I have been visiting the hospital where Dorah lived for a long time. Week after week I witnessed the children poisoned by paraffin, hit by cars and caught beneath the fallen security gates that fence so many South African homes. Some had eaten poisoned berries or mushrooms, or been severely scalded as boiling pots of water fell from the stove. There were infants with pneumonia and two-year-olds with diarrhoea so bad that they might die.

And the parents who bothered to visit left me unconvinced that they would care for their children more wisely once — or if — they returned home. One father stood there, clothes torn and filthy, making jokes about "tying a knot in it". He had a babe in the push-chair, another was being held in his wife's arms and two blonde toddlers — who had been burnt from shoulder to knee — lying in hospital cons.

All four children were under the age of five.

More chastening still were the abandoned ones. The beaming, perfectly healthy baby boy whose mother had died of tuberculosis — no relative ever came to claim her son. The Zulu-speaking five-year-old who went blind after

meningitis. The family who brought her in never returned. She lay there asking: "When is Mama coming? Why is she taking so long?" No one answered her.

One day I was walking in the ward and I saw a big boy crying. He looked at least ten years old. The nurses — caring, but too busy to do more than the rudiments — said: "Oh, that's Wilson. He was hit by a car and he's not quite right." They tapped the side of their heads.

I was handing out books when Wilson called me. "Come here, please," he said. I walked to his bed. "Hug me, please," he said. I did. Then he said: "Now turn round, please." When I did, he gently put his arms around my neck and his legs around my waist.

As he clambered on to my back, Wilson said: "Take me away, please." But I didn't. I couldn't. If I were to try to help one of them, which one would I choose?

Well, it would have to be Dorah. The ugliest duckling, the most beautiful swan. If you met Dorah, you would be scared. Or cry. Or think that she's too awful to look at. But she's not. She just doesn't have a face.

Dorah wasn't born like that. She was born bonny. By character she still is. They didn't want to treat her at Baragwanath, the biggest hospital in the southern hemisphere, because they were so sure she would die. But Dorah is still alive and kicking. She has been fighting for survival against all the odds. A charred bundle delivered to the Far East Rand Hospital, no one but the little girl herself had faith that she could live.

It costs R500 a month (about £63 — or a month's wages here for a cleaner) to buy dressings for what is left of Dorah's eyes. She has a trust fund and there is some money to contribute to operations. But the wisdom, economic and medical, is to cut Dorah's eyes out.

Rob Dowd, chief executive of African Merchant Bank and a Scot by birth, this week has offered to help to fund the cost of a carer for Dorah. "We are touched by her plight and wanted to help."

Plastic surgeons have studied her photographs. Dorah's case has been discussed on the Internet. And while they think that they can make her an aesthetically pleasing nose and eventually imitate



A friend with three-year-old Dorah Moekena, the "ugliest duckling, the most beautiful swan" in South Africa

muscle to give her fake lips that will allow her a better range of speech, everyone has given up on the eyes.

Dr Leonard Pott, an anaesthetist and one of the medical specialists involved in Dorah's case, supports the removal of her eyes for medical and logistical reasons.

To some extent the problem is money, he concedes, but his main concern is that the home where Dorah lives does not have the staff to spend more

than an hour a day dealing with her dressings. The staff are unhappy at the pain Dorah suffers when the dressings are changed.

The problem with the dressing necessary to keep the eyes moist is that some sort of adhesive has to be attached to the skin," says Dr Pott. "It is airtight, it pulls, it hurts to take it off and it itches to leave it on. It has to be on quite tight as the area is a high-risk site of infection. Dorah has already had low-grade infections in the area.

Dorah had no eyelids, and attempts to make some flaps from her skin to do the same job have so far failed because there was not enough tissue. The skin that remains on the surrounding area is scar tissue and has little blood flow.

"They would need to move the skin with its artery; it needs a pedicle, or root," Dr Pott explains. "The skin of the eyelid is fed with blood from the top. It would die off without blood supply. It also needs to be able to open and close."

If a way could be found to reconstruct Dorah's eyelids, it would be possible to give her a corneal transplant. "If you can get help for Dorah from overseas, we would look at other options," says Dr Pott. "If anyone in Europe knows of appropriate artificial means to construct eyelids, we would like to know. We have models, photographs that we could send to them."

Dorah has plenty of personality. She has a lovely character. She was neglected for quite a long time but then she was given intensive occupational therapy. Initially there was a big surge of improvement, but this was not sustained. There are strong reasons to take Dorah's eyes out. If we're wrong, we'll stand corrected. We don't know what else to do."

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## Best ways to kill or cure a hangover

as drunkenness is only dependent on the amount of alcohol.

Rich food, alcohol and tension all tend to cause inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestine and the result may be nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

For many people, indigestion, with or without a hangover, is the inevitable price of late nights, rich food and rather more than the regulatory half bottle of wine. If the absent breakfast eaters had only managed some porridge or cornflakes with sweetened tea they would have had just what is needed to have made the office day tolerable.

A well planned evening may avoid any necessity of raiding the medicine chest on returning home, or of avoiding breakfast next day. The preparation for an evening party should start with a good lunch, followed by a glass of milk, some cream or bread dipped in olive oil.

### MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Fats before drinking may not only reduce the rate of absorption of alcohol but could also prevent an attack of gout. Alcohol is particularly apt to precipitate gout if the drinker is starving before he starts at the bar.

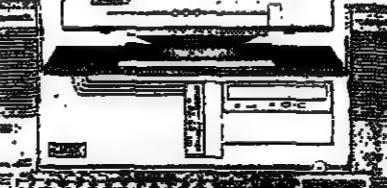
Eating the fattier foods on offer at a party, even if it only means wolfing the smoked salmon sandwiches, delays stomach emptying and therefore alcohol absorption. Alcohol is absorbed faster from the first part of the intestine than through the stomach, so that the longer it stays there the less quickly the blood-alcohol level rises.

Relax and be cheerful at a party. Research published last year showed that people who were in a good mood while they were drinking were very much less likely to have a hangover than those who were tense and grumpy throughout the evening.

MORNING after coffee shouldn't be substituted for breakfast as it is a gastric irritant. In some cases, more drastic treatment is needed. Antacids and paracetamol can prove inadequate. Imodium to still the gut, and Maxolon to reduce nausea can be very effective.

This combination once enabled a very senior politician with whom I was travelling to look reasonably relaxed throughout a long meeting with the head of state of our host country, and it spared the politician the shame of having to make an undignified rush to the presidential lavatory.

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## MINISTERIAL INCAPACITY

### The Government is letting its case go by default

One of the hallmarks of a civilised society is that it helps those who are unable to care for themselves. In Britain, the disabled can rely on state benefits for support; in most developing countries, they are reduced to begging on the streets. To many Labour MPs, that is the end of the argument. It should, however, be only the beginning.

Those who question the increased burden on the State of sickness and disability benefits do not have hearts of stone. Claims of this type have risen faster than any other category — costing the taxpayer £23.5 billion last year compared with just £4.1 billion in 1982 — and the benefits now account for 27 per cent of the total social security budget. A moment's thought should find this odd: why, over a period when the nation has become healthier, should spending on sickness and disability have escalated?

The answer is that, for many, living on these benefits has become a substitute for taking early retirement or joining the ranks of the long-term unemployed on income support. Britain has a very low unemployment rate relative to other European countries, but it has more "disabled" people than it has claimants of official unemployment benefit. The teacher who leaves her job early, citing stress, may well end up on incapacity benefit, while claiming her occupational pension. Unlike jobseekers' allowance, the benefit is not time-limited, nor is it means-tested; though after a period, claimants have to be prepared to take a job other than the one they had before.

The rules for incapacity benefit were rightly tightened by Peter Lilley when he was Social Security Secretary. Now independent assessors, rather than claimants' own GPs, have to test the extent of the incapacity. And this Government has introduced home visits from a "benefit integrity project" to

check that long-term claimants still deserve the array of benefits that they receive.

No one denies that those who are genuinely incapable of work and at risk of poverty should be supported by the State. It seems unlikely that the Government would want to penalise them. But there are many claimants of disability benefits who have other sources of income and could afford, say, to pay tax on any money they receive from the State. In 1994-95, 70 per cent of those claiming invalidity benefit or the severe disablement allowance were well-off enough not to qualify for income support. This compares with just 13 per cent of unemployed people and 35 per cent of lone parents. Yet most disability benefits are neither means-tested nor taxed.

Ministers could also justify exploring other ways of financing a safety net for the long-term sick or disabled. Only three months ago, the independent Social Security Advisory Committee, whose job it is to advise the Government, suggested that the burden of providing for sickness and disability could be shifted to employers, employees and private insurance plans. If the risks were spread among all employees of a company, the level of premiums would be affordable. Such an approach would abolish at a stroke the disincentives to return to work that are inherent in state benefits.

The case for reform is almost unanswerable. Yet, because the exact nature of the reforms has not yet been finalised, ministers have been parrying defensively, rather than going on the attack. If they do not fight back soon, their opponents will win by default. "Compassion with a hard edge" surely means helping those who need it, and encouraging self-reliance for the rest. There is nothing to be ashamed of in that approach: ministers should argue it with conviction.

## STILL STALLING

### Iraq cannot be allowed to obstruct UN inspectors

Less than four weeks after he had allegedly relented, Saddam Hussein is once more challenging the work of the United Nations Special Commission (Unscom) in Iraq. His public promise that those teams would be allowed to fulfil their mission in an unimpeded fashion has proved worthless. Richard Butler, the Australian who heads the UN effort, yesterday conducted another set of predominantly fruitless talks with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister. After that, Mr Butler offered a blunt and discouraging assessment of his progress. He had believed that his four-day mission to Baghdad this week would prove a "defining moment" in the relationship between Iraq and the outside world. That may turn out to be true but not for the reasons anticipated.

The central issue during the last dispute was the composition of the inspection units themselves. Saddam sought to remove all United States nationals from them. Some belated solidarity among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council did persuade the Iraqi dictator to withdraw that threat. It still remains his ambition to dilute the American presence. His failure on that front has now led Saddam back to familiar territory: the simple refusal to allow the UN access to areas of suspicious activity.

Iraq has unilateral, divided these into three categories: "normal" sites where external inspection is broadly tolerated but hardly assisted; "sensitive" sites where the UN may or may not be allowed to look; and "presidential" sites from which it is completely excluded. This, as Mr Butler has rightly argued, is in contradiction of the various Security Council resolutions that Iraq accepted at the end of the Gulf War and the pledge that it made to Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, last month.

This is only the most overt element in a continuing pattern of Iraqi obstruction. Mr Butler noted yesterday that he had learnt nothing new from Mr Aziz about Baghdad's biological weapons programme and was still uncertain about the extent of Iraq's VX nerve gas stockpiles. What Iraq has and where it is hidden remains, seven years after its brutal invasion of Kuwait, a matter more of speculation than calculation. All available evidence is that Saddam Hussein is at least as dangerous today as he was before his forces were routed by the Allies.

It remains to be seen whether the UN Security Council will respond with any real vigour. Saddam has decided that he can afford to allow UN inspectors to stay in Iraq, but as little more than an inconvenience, while Russia, China and France continue their campaign to ease sanctions against him. Iraq will have realised that the United States and Britain are all but alone in their willingness to contemplate military action. That will have encouraged Saddam to continue with his chosen strategy of selective co-operation. He does not believe that sanctions will be tightened or airstrikes undertaken if his "palaces" — buildings that often resemble an industrial estate rather than Versailles — remain inaccessible.

The United Nations must support its own commission. The Security Council should not alter the arrangements under which Saddam makes limited sales of oil — or consider other concessions — until inspection inside Iraq is ensured. If not, Unscom will be impotent. The UN has suffered in the past six months as certain countries have softened their stand on sanctions. Saddam must be convinced that at least some members of the international community still have the stomach to take him on.

## WEDDING BLUES

### No room at the crypt this Christmas for the passed-over

Last week Tony Blair discovered that huge majorities can create unexpectedly big headaches. This week William Hague is finding out what Kate Moss already knows, even a tiny rump can be too big sometimes. Although he has only 160-odd, some suggest very odd, MPs left to lead he still cannot invite them all to his wedding in the Commons crypt this Friday. Although a wedding in a crypt may seem as bizarre a conjunction of event and venue as a Yorkshireman at the Notting Hill Carnival, the Commons' own basement has been the traditional backdrop for many parliamentarians plighting troths and, in due course, when a boy or girl is born, christening the little Liberal or Conservative.

In choosing to marry in the bowels of Westminster Mr Hague and Fion Jenkins are genuflecting in seemly fashion to tradition, just as they are by including on their wedding list that unfairly mocked utensil the fishknife. The fishknife is one bourgeois creation where the benefits are obvious rather than discretionary. It, like the Teasmade, combines efficiency with charm and as such is an entirely appropriate model for Mr Hague's new Toryism.

For all the symbolism of gift and crypt there will still be Conservatives inclined to dismiss the nuances of the wedding list because they did not make it onto the invitation list. It is a problem every couple face when the congratulations flood in after the announcement on the Court and Social page — many call but few can be chosen. If

Mr Hague and his affianced had opted for a bigger church to accommodate their guests, Westminster Abbey perhaps, or St Paul's, then they might have been accused of delusions of grandeur. As Fion well knows, social showiness is not the Welsh way.

A hilltop wedding might have been a Bardic compromise, allowing as many guests as possible to offer their best wishes under the vault of heaven. But lamely repeating the words dictated by a preacher while surrounded by sheep would have looked like a homage to new Labour. As with his stance on the single currency, so with his choice of wedding venue: having eliminated all the superficially attractive options only one course remains — and if some MPs object then that is unfortunate, but they will only look foolish if they go public with their complaints.

Nevertheless, as with the single currency, steps can be taken to soften the blow for unhappy colleagues. Lord Parkinson has

organised a party for all those MPs who cannot be fitted into the crypt — a feast for the passed-over. Perhaps a piece of wobbly chocolate wedding cake can be handed round all the non-invites as an inclusive gesture — the disgruntled in the Tory party have grown used to making do with a constantly shifting fudge. Kenneth Clarke could take it with hard cheese and sour grapes. The rest of us will content ourselves with raising a glass to Ms Jenkins and Mr Hague and hoping that their honeymoon ends more sweetly than the Government's.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Crime Bill 'attack on civil rights'

From the Director of the Howard League

Sir, On December 16 the Crime and Disorder Bill will have its second reading in Parliament. It includes three significant changes to the criminal law which have not been publicly debated.

The antisocial behaviour order is vague and could be used against people who are simply different. Local councils will have virtually unlimited discretion to seek highly restrictive orders using civil law procedures, leading to criminal penalties of up to five years in prison.

The detention and training order means that a child as young as 12 could be held in a youth prison, and the Home Secretary will have the power to reduce that to 10-year-olds. Girls of this age could go to adult women's prisons. The Government is ignoring the fact that in recent years some 35 teenagers have taken their own lives in prisons.

The Bill's abolition of *doli incapax* means that primary school age children will be treated the same as adults by the courts, expected to comprehend fully the implications of their actions and the court procedure.

This Bill could turn out to be one of the most sweeping attacks on civil rights this century, resulting in a dramatic use of prison custody for children and anyone identified as different and difficult.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES CROOK,  
Director,  
The Howard League for  
Penal Reform,  
708 Holloway Road, N19 3NL  
December 11.

### 'Two-flag' Gibraltar

From Mr Mike Gilber

Sir, Many years ago, when in a position of overwhelming strength, Britain twisted a foreign power's arm and took a small piece of their land purely for military reasons. In a more enlightened age we cannot face up to our responsibility to hand back Gibraltar, even though it rightly belongs to a democratic monarchy, an economic partner and a military ally.

There are difficulties but they are not insurmountable, and the population of Gibraltar may find, as thousands of expatriate Brits have found, that modern Spain is not such a bad place to live. The Spanish regions have a considerable influence over their destiny, economy and culture.

Those in favour of British sovereignty may say that to return Gibraltar to Spain would ignore the wishes of the Gibraltarians — people who are of Spanish descent and who speak a Spanish dialect.

We recently handed back Hong Kong in the face of the prophets of doom, and that was to a belligerent dictatorship with, from our point of view, an appalling human rights record. It seems OK so far.

Tony Blair and Robin Cook (letter, December 11) should actively be seeking an accommodation with Spain to get the best deal for Gibraltar and give it back, despite the "little Englander" voices of Michael Howard and George Young (letter, December 10).

Even the most frugal of HMOs provide an entirely different standard of service from that routinely delivered in the cost-contained NHS. The extra resources provide HMO enrollees with regular wellness care, custom-

ised screening and counselling, unhurried consultations, access to specialists, fast attention to ill-health, lower premature mortality from life-threatening diseases and a feeling that something is being done about a health problem rather than a feeling that care is being denied or delayed because it cannot be afforded.

But the whole health culture is different in the US. The average insured American is better informed about health issues, and much less deferential to providers than his British counterpart. And American practitioners never forget that their patients have (and exercise) choice in healthcare.

Managed care is now cost-effective, cost-oriented and has introduced cost-conserving procedures, within the bounds permitted by the watchful and influential consumer groups. Beyond that, expenditures are demand-led; evidence of a willingness to pay that is not directly identifiable in the British system. Regulating standards, target-setting and "name and shame" tactics within the NHS can only ever be partially successful at improving quality, and are inadequate substitutes for the pressures that could be applied by an empowered patient population.

Yours sincerely,  
HEATHER GAGE,  
University of Surrey,  
Department of Economics,  
Guildford GU2 5XH.  
December 11.

### Home births

From Dr Richard Freeman

Sir, I heartily support the sentiments expressed in Sarah Johnson's article, "Safe, secure — and satisfying" (December 10). Our third child was born at home 16 years ago. It was only allowed because the mother contracted mumps two weeks before delivery and was too infectious to be allowed near a hospital.

Home births are an excellent way of introducing the newborn to its siblings. But, of course, only if everything is normal. The risks involved with home deliveries become much higher if intervention is required, and the trauma this may induce amongst the rest of the family, not to mention the mother, has to be recognised.

Yours etc.  
RICHARD FREEMAN,  
101 Castle Street,  
Saffron Walden CB10 1BQ.

From Mr P. R. Ridgway

Sir, I was interested in the article promoting the benefits of birth at home, including the greater sense of continuity and family ties.

I too was born at home, in the same house where my mother had been born. Unfortunately the adjoining property has since expanded, and when I now point out to my children my birthplace, it is located in the saloon bar of the Fox and Goose.

Yours sincerely,  
PHIL RIDGWAY,  
27 Naverne Meadows,  
Woodbridge IP12 1HU.  
December 10.

From Dr D. G. Guild

Sir, With the Kyoto summit still in progress at the time, one would have thought that the Prime Minister could have found some more positive affirmation of his beliefs than the new logo which, as I understand, is to disfigure a Eurostar train (report, December 6).

Mr Blair could show that his devotion to a green future is more than "spin". When he goes to Brussels he could travel by Eurostar rather than by air.

Air travel has a high pollution content, higher even than road. And he might find that, given the short distances involved, he might get from the centre of London to the centre of Brussels as quickly as by air.

Yours faithfully,  
D. G. GUILD,  
53 Grange Road,  
Edinburgh EH9 1TX.  
December 8.

From Mrs Julia Pike

Sir, At midnight the Nanny State will have arrived: we will all have to have our meat cut up for us.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIA PIKE,  
Brasses Farm, Ewhurst Green,  
Robertsbridge TN32 5RH.  
December 6.

### Male bonding

From Mr Robert Philip

Sir, Paul Hoggart's somewhat improbable comparison (Magazine, December 6) between James Bond (new-style) and Tony Blair is given added interest by the fact that Bond and Blair attended the same school.

It is reasonably well known that Tony Blair went to Fettes, but in You Only Live Twice Ian Fleming records that Bond started at Eton but, after

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Hard choices needed to fund NHS

From Dr Ian Kunkler

Sir, You report today the Government's commitment in its White Paper on the NHS to provide an appointment with a cancer specialist within two weeks of a general practitioner deciding that an urgent appointment is needed.

This is a very reasonable objective. Increasingly, however, the first appointment is not with a single cancer specialist but at a multidisciplinary clinic, where the patient has the benefit of the opinion of all the relevant cancer specialists and of counselling from cancer nurses. Adequate time is required to discuss with each patient the treatment needed and its possible side-effects. Additional time is often needed to recruit patients to national and international trials to improve the results of current treatments.

A national network of cancer units linked to specialist cancer centres is being established to ensure uniformly high cancer care across the UK. To achieve this many more consultant cancer specialist posts are required. The number of new patients seen per oncologist in the UK is 860 a year, more than double that of Spain.

The Royal College of Radiologists has estimated that 290 clinical oncologists and 150 medical oncologists are needed to implement the 1995 Cancer/Hine report on cancer services: and the recent joint report of the Cancer Research Campaign, King's Fund and Macmillan Cancer Relief calculates that by 2001 an additional 116 consultant posts in clinical oncology will be required to provide the additional 27,840 sessions needed. In addition 750 cancer nurses are required to staff the 150 cancer units and 420 for the 40 cancer centres. The resource implications for staffing and training are enormous.

The minister is rightly committed to improve cancer services. However, we have some way to go even to catch up with our European partners. Within a cash-limited NHS hard choices will have to be made between the development of cancer services and other competing claims for health resources. These choices need to be explicit and publicly debated.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN KUNKLER  
(Consultant in Clinical Oncology),  
Western General Hospitals  
NHS Trust,  
Crewe Road, Edinburgh EH4 2XU.  
December 10.

### Holocaust claims

From Mr W. D. Rothenberg

Sir, Whilst the commissioning groups of GPs proposed in the NHS White Paper might seem to resemble staff model health maintenance organisations (HMOs) in the US in the sense that they both ration within a global budget, that is about as far as the parallel can be taken ("This takes us further down the American way", Peter Riddell, December 10).

Even the most frugal of HMOs provide an entirely different standard of service from that routinely delivered in the cost-contained NHS. The extra resources provide HMO enrollees with regular wellness care, custom-

ised screening and counselling, unhurried consultations, access to specialists, fast attention to ill-health, lower premature mortality from life-threatening diseases and a feeling that something is being done about a health problem rather than a feeling that care is being denied or delayed because it cannot be afforded.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID ROTHENBERG  
(Vice-Chairman),  
Refugee and Jewish Refugees,  
1 Hampstead Gate,  
London NW3 6AL.  
December 12.

### Christmas aisles

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, The investors and staff of Asda plc (report, December 8, letter, December 10) did not join the organisation to proselytise on behalf of a religion. They and customers should object to a plan to mount this inappropriate (and some offensive) site in a multicultural society in which the majority are not practising Christians.

Yours sincerely,  
K. PORTEOUS WOOD,  
General Secretary,  
National Secular Society,  
Bradlaugh House,  
47 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8SP.  
December 11.

### Britannia's future

From Mr Jonathan West

Sir, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff (letter, December 8) may well wish to see Britannia scrapped rather than saved. No doubt, like Princess Anne, he fondly remembers many fine times spent on board, all, one assumes, at taxpayers' expense.

Like many others I would like the chance to look round the ship, perhaps its upkeep may not quite meet the earlier high standards but, unlike Lord Callaghan, I would not be in a position to compare.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN WEST,  
47 Theobalds Road, WC1



## DAPHNE FIELDING

Daphne Fielding, formerly Marchioness of Bath, author, died on December 5 aged 93. She was born on July 11, 1904.

**C**oming from the gilded world of Evelyn Waugh's Oxford, Daphne Fielding married a viscount, became a marchioness, married a war hero, had a spot of trouble about bigamy, and lived the second half of her long and zestful life, mostly in self-exile, writing about the first half.

Daphne Winifred Louise Vivian was the elder daughter of the stormy marriage of 4th Baron Vivian and Barbara Fanning, and once played ring-a-ring-a-roses with Edward VII. Her twin aunts had been maids of honour to Queen Victoria.

Her mother left when she was four (and was to marry four times), and her father's indulgence of Daphne's mischievous spirits made her a proper little madam. And sometimes an improverone: she was removed from one school after she and an accomplice used their compasses to skewer a buntock each of an unwary class mistress. So it was an eccentric and itinerant education, furnished in Paris, where she was sent at 16 and learnt to love the opera. Meanwhile she had become so beautiful that her brother Tony used to hire out her photograph at Eton "for a shilling an hour". Augustus John drew her portrait.

In London, where her father took a house for the season, she made friends with a theatrical set including Tatlinah Bankhead, and in Oxford she knew Harold Acton, Robert Byron, Evelyn Waugh (who dedicated to her *The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold*), in Oxford she also met Henry Viscount Weymouth, the heir to Longleat, and the Bath family estate in Wiltshire, whom she married twice once secretly, then for show.

First came a bit of horseplay, when they went out riding dressed as highwaymen, and demanded coins from passers-by. The marquess disapproved so strongly of this extortion that he forbade his son to see Daphne. Her parents, too, opposed the match, so the first wedding, in

1926, was conducted clandestinely, with each set of parents kept in ignorance and the two parties using their second Christian names when the barns were read. He was 21, she 22. Lord Weymouth was then sent to Texas by his family in "strict training for the marathon of matrimony". She, meanwhile, wore the wedding ring on a chain around her neck. When he returned the following year he declared himself still in love, and the marquess relented. The marriage now had to be regularised, and for the benefit of families and the aristocracy in general (which came to much the same thing) a big wedding was organised at St Martin-in-the-Fields and duly recorded by *Cecil Beaton*.

The couple ran with a wild and moneyed group — Duff Coopers, Rothermeres, Devoniess Westminsters — and enjoyed more than a decade of cruises, bicycling trips and getting "spifficated" at weekend parties. At the end of the evening, they would drink a libation to Bacchus as a last toast, in vain hopes of postponing the morning after. They lived at Sturford Mead, an idyllic house on the Longleat estate, in luxury if not ancestral splendour, and cultivated friends such as the painter Rex Whistler.

There were no lions yet at Longleat, but the pekinese, the terrier, the retriever and the parrot misbehaved with agreeable panache. In 1951 Lady Bath wrote a short account of the even grander life there at the turn of the century, *Before the Sunset Fades*. She had also taken up painting, writing to Evelyn Waugh that her muse was "more inspired by the Queen or Mr Attlee".

It was a happy marriage, producing four sons (the eldest of whom died in infancy) and a daughter. But Lord Weymouth spent much of the war as a German prisoner of war, and difficulties — though not aridity — ensued when he returned, and succeeded to the title in 1946. The unorthodox nuptials arrangements were matched by the peculiar circumstances of the eventual divorce. On a single day in May 1953, Lady Bath and the Hon David Tennant were



Daphne Fielding and Lord Bath on the occasion of their second wedding in 1927

divorced on the grounds of the adultery of Lord Bath and Mrs Virginia Tennant ("the judge exercising his discretion concerning Mr Tennant's own misconduct"). Two months later the Baths would each remarry, while remaining friends. But things were not to work out quite so neatly.

On her 49th birthday, Daphne married Major Alexander Fielding, who had been in the Resistance in Crete during the war, and as Xan Fielding had written about his capture and narrow escape from a Gestapo death sentence. But the following year a book of reminiscences, *Mercury Presides* by Daphne Fielding, revealed the secret marriage, which had inadvertently not been cited in the

divorce papers. Changing the decree took 18 months, and severely depleted the resources of her husband, who lived for many years in anticipation of a handsome legacy that never came through.

Selling their house in Cornwall, the Fieldings moved to Tangier, which was so humid that shoes left in cupboards soon produced fine crops of mushrooms. But wine was only a shilling a litre in 1957, and Daphne made some money by writing for the papers about the decline of the English seaside postcard and other social issues. In 1961 she published a novel, *The Adonis Garden*. Evelyn Waugh wrote: "it is as though Norman Douglas and Nancy Mit-

ford and Ernest Hemingway had sat down right to a paper game." This was probably praise.

The Fieldings moved to Portugal, and Daphne began working on a history of the Cavendish Hotel with George Kinnaird. But Kinnaird was living in England, and she decided that it was "as unnatural for two people to produce a book as for three people to produce a baby". Although it had been Kinnaird's idea, she took over what was to become her best-known book, *The Duchess of Jermyn Street* (1964), a biography of Rosa Lewis, with a preface by Evelyn Waugh.

Fielding had known the Cavendish from forbidden trysts in the 1920s and from

stays there during the Blitz, and well remembered its hostess, whose stays were said to be autographed by Daphne's old friend Edward VII. In 1970 the BBC ran a 25-part fictionalised series about Rosa Lewis, called *The Duchess of Duke Street*. It was a great success, and a further 25 parts were broadcast the following year. Fielding, unfortunately, was given no formal credit, but her agent at least ensured that her book was republished.

From Portugal, the Fieldings moved to Languedoc, where they welcomed artists and writers such as Lawrence Durrell and Elisabeth Frink as guests. But although she embraced new experiences with enthusiasm, the people of her youth remained the most vivid to Daphne. Her life of Lady Cunard and her daughter, *Emerald and Nancy* (1968), was followed by a second instalment of memoirs, *The Nearest Way Home* (1970), which was dedicated to Dick Bogarde.

In the late 1970s, Xan Fielding left Daphne, and her future looked likely to be lonely. However, she soon struck up with Ben Kittridge, who had known and admired her from decades before. She went to live with him in Arizona, learning to love the desert and the cactuses, and remained there until his death seven years later, when she retired to Gloucestershire.

In 1978 she had written *The Face on the Sphinx*, a portrait of Gladys Deacon, Duchess of Marlborough, who had had one of the first facelifts.

The operation, to inject her cheeks with paraffin wax, had been a disaster, for gravity triumphed and turned her into something of a gargoyle (she subsequently went mad). But the book was based largely on society gossip which turned out to be very inaccurate. She never wrote another book, but her writing — and especially her memoirs — will remain as vivid glimpses of life through seven decades among the classes who didn't exactly have to work.

Daphne Fielding's second marriage was dissolved in 1978. She is survived by two sons from her first marriage. Her son Alexander succeeded as Marquess of Bath in 1992.

## N. C. SAINSBURY

N. C. Sainsbury, linguist and librarian, died on November 20 aged 87. He was born on July 14, 1910.

DURING his long and distinguished career in librarianship, Norman Sainsbury was principal of two of the country's most illustrious oriental collections: at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies and at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Born in Hampshire — for which he retained a lifelong affection — he won a scholarship to Portsmouth Grammar School before winning a major classical scholarship to Cambridge, where he was also a *Kitchen scholar* at Peterhouse. Mastery of the classics was an ideal preparation for a change of academic direction, and he proceeded to read for the oriental languages tripos. He took firsts in part I in classics and in both parts in oriental languages. His prowess in Middle Eastern languages was recognised in the award of the E. G. Browne Scholarship, which he held at Pembroke College, 1932-33.

Sainsbury must have mapped out his career while still at college, for he obtained certification from the Library Association in cataloguing and other branches of library work, in 1928 and 1929. He took up his first post in librarianship at Cambridge University Library in 1932, beginning with cataloguing duties and later helping to plan the move to new buildings.

From 1935 until 1947, with a break for war service, when he was seconded first to the War Office and then to the Foreign Office, he was assistant keeper in the department of oriental printed books and manuscripts at the British Museum, where he was responsible for Persian and Turkish.

Sainsbury never spoke in detail about the nature of his duties during the war, but for a time he was employed at Bletchley Park, where his keen and analytical mind would certainly have been useful.

In 1947 he became librarian at the School of Oriental and African Studies. The war had led to considerable rearrangement of the collection that it subsequently became. The staff, meanwhile, increased from six to 15. Sainsbury also edited the school's *Bulletin*.

He left the school to take up new duties, again of a confidential nature, at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham, but

in 1956 he was appointed keeper of oriental books at the Bodleian Library, where he remained until his retirement in 1976.

His contributions to librarianship, both at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Bodleian were principally organisational. He was concerned to build up teams of specialists adequate to embrace the heterogeneous branches of learning covered by the designation "oriental studies". He inherited a minimal establishment both in London and in Oxford, and left both libraries with far more satisfactory staffing levels.

In the oriental reading room of the Bodleian he created a catalogue which unified all the oriental language materials in his charge, with the exception of Chinese. His knowledge of the history of the oriental manuscript collections was unique, and he set himself the task of providing descriptions of all such material that was hitherto unrecorded.

He also worked tirelessly on a card catalogue of Arabic manuscripts. For this task, which required mastery of the two early Latin printed catalogues and the standard *German bio-bibliographies*, his linguistic accomplishments ideally suited him. In his distinctive and eminently readable hand, he wrote out some 5,000 entries, which were subsequently typed on cards over several years.

While he was keeper, the library's holdings were enriched by more than 100 Middle Eastern manuscripts, Turkish, a language which particularly fascinated him, benefited most, with early Ottoman imprints complementing the manuscript acquisitions. Valuable additions were also made to the Arabic, Persian, Armenian and Ethiopic collections. Outside his own department he helped with work to improve the library's security.

He was a man who was courageous, both physically and morally. If a cherished principle appealed to him to be in danger of violation he would stand by this no matter what the cost might be to himself. Once a staff member proved in his judgment to be worthy of his loyalty he would support such a person to the utmost.

In his leisure time he took a keen interest in music and opera, and was a regular attendee at Glyndebourne. His ability to solve crossword puzzles was famous.

He was married twice, in the first instance to Norah Mary Evans, who predeceased him in 1974. His second marriage was to Margaret Bevan, a colleague at the Bodleian and family friend, who survives him. There were no children by either marriage.

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# Wanted: canny ITF entrants. Large rewards

## The story so far

Tell me more about this FA Cup league, then. Well, despite the name, it isn't strictly only an FA Cup league. The Tennents Cup games in Scotland count too. But that doesn't start at the same time, does it? No, the Scottish premier league teams don't enter the competition until January 24.

So if I've entered a team especially for the cup, it should start off with English premier league players.

Exactly. And it's probably a good idea to select players from teams with good draws.

Such as?

Arsenal or Leeds defenders. Both clubs are at home to first division sides, and shouldn't concede many goals. Even Crystal Palace might get a home win against Scunthorpe or Ilkstone. West Ham look comfortable too, at home to Lincoln City or Emley, and could score goals. Hartson might be a good buy.

But what about the magic of the cup? The unpredictable nature of the world's greatest knock-out competition?

Exactly, there is a risk. Wimbledon against Wrexham could be tricky — Wrexham have a great cup record.

Blackburn against Wigan?

A case in point on paper, a home win — but it is a local derby. Wigan's cup final. So you never know. This is going to take some thought. And, while we're at it, aren't there a limited number of games? Every round has successively fewer ties.

Don't forget replays. If you think that, say, Portsmouth vs Villa will be a goalless draw, with Villa winning the replay, then buy Villa defenders.

But what if they were drawn away to Manchester United in the next round?

Well, the next round may prompt you to make a few transfers, certainly. But anyway, what makes you think Manchester United will even be in the next round?

Good point. And the Scottish clubs will be in then. Now you're getting the idea.

Hang on, though — in the semi-finals and final, there will only be four, then two teams playing ...

Eight and four; don't forget Scotland. Ah yes, of course. But certainly only four in the two finals. So only eight of your team's players will be in action by the end.

It's the same for everyone, I'm afraid.

And last year, Falkirk were in the Tennents Cup final, but not in the premier league, and Chesterfield, a second division side, were in the FA Cup semi-finals!

Well, that's ...

... the magic of the cup. Thank you.

Jumpers for Christmas? There are lots of outstanding examples in this week's ITF lists — 37,788 places in the case of one team

**T**he ability of teams to win without a manager is an oft-noted football phenomenon. Only this season, Sheffield Wednesday thrashed Bolton 5-0 in the interregnum between David Pleat and Ron Atkinson.

It also seems to work in Interactive Team Football.

This weekend's highest climber in the ITF lists, H. Astbury of Blairgowrie, Perthshire,

has not yet seen fit to replace

Gerry Francis as manager of his team, Haddy's Hopefuls,

but still enjoyed a 50-point

week which saw his selection

rise 37,788 places to 67,161st.

Seven of his team are Scotland-based. Jackie McNamara, the Celtic full-back, was

his top scorer with ten points,

although Sieb Dykstra, the

Dundee United goalkeeper,

and Marcus Hall, the Coventry City and England under-21

defender, who played in mid-

field and scored his first

league goal against Tottenham on Saturday, both

weighed in with nine. Darren Jackson and Eoin Jess, each

scored five.

Things are close in mid-

**Join the FA Cup league now and earn yourself a handy £10,000**

See page 40 today for full details

■ ITF helpline: 01582 702720



table: M. Gaylor, N. Bow and R. Shephstone, in joint 109,280th position with 223 points, all scored 44 points over the same seven-day period, and found themselves together again sharing 77,288th place.

Mr D. Clarke was the second highest jumper, up 33,621 positions with 49 points, but the same total accrued by an ITF entrant higher up the league resulted in a rise of "only" 30,222 places. The Christmas tree formation in the real world refers to a 4-3-2-2

lineup; in ITF, it is an illustration of the relative density of numbers of players on different points totals; the higher you go, the fewer share the same numbers of points.

**NICK SZCZEPANIK**



Kevin Gallacher in action at the weekend. Blackburn's FA Cup draw could see him on the scoresheet again

## FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (womens, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 2.20 noon the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
Monthly prize of  
£1,000 plus tickets,  
signed football and  
sports bag

## ITF LEAGUE

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| 8 M. A. Colombe             | 602 |
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# A guide to players, transfers and bargains

When a club ends its losing streak, the players may become bargains worth transferring into your team

**A**t the risk of sounding like a Sixties' folk song, for every team, there comes a time in every season; the moment when the corner is turned. It could be the result of a lucky bounce, a poor back-pass by an opponent, the return from injury of a key player, or an inspired positional switch made by a new manager. It could even be a wonder goal — a shot that, previously, would have screamed just over the crossbar, or rebounded heartbreakingly from the woodwork.

The upturn in fortune may not last long enough to salvage the campaign, but while it continues there is a spring in the step of every supporter, and Monday morning does not seem so bad: it is even bearable to turn to the sports pages and read the match report.

For followers of Sheffield Wednesday, Saturday's narrow defeat at West Ham notwithstanding, *'The Pink 'Un'* has started to make very good reading indeed. For ITF entrants who stuck by Owls players through the dark days of devolution, there have been similarly rewarding experiences when trawling through the ITF lists. The arrival of Ron Atkinson as manager may not be as significant as the recovery from long-term injuries of Peter Atherton and Andy Booth. Whatever the reason, Paolo Di Canio and

taken goals from John Hendrie and Neil Redfearn, the captain. His curling shot to give his side the lead was an echo of the free-kick from which he scored against Wednesday. He and his colleagues will face the vital trip to White Hart Lane this Saturday with a renewed sense of optimism in the knowledge that their opponents' confidence is at as low an ebb as their own was some months ago.

In Scotland, a manager who faced early doubts from his club's followers, Wim Jansen of Celtic, has masterminded a steady improvement in his side's fortunes, resulting in their Scottish Coca-Cola Cup final victory over Dundee United and a 1-0 win against Hearts, the league leaders, on Saturday.

Beware the false dawn, however. Any optimism in the Coventry City camp following their 4-0 win on Saturday will be tempered by the knowledge that they now face six difficult games, including a visit from Manchester United and a trip to the fortress of Upton Park. Even so, Darren Huckerby looks in good form: "We all love the lad. He's a complete and utter natural." Gordon Strachan, his manager, said after two powerful strikes had helped put paid to any hopes of an early Tottenham revival. That is one comeback which, like that of Captain Oates, may take some time.



**SKY sports**  
Interactive

Booth have begun to justify earlier valuations, and Kevin Prennan has regained his confidence in goal. Liabilities have become assets once again.

Could there also be similar stirrings elsewhere in south Yorkshire? Barnsley recently took three points at Anfield, and were unlucky victims of the Wednesday revival at Hillsborough a week ago. On Saturday they came from behind to salvage a draw against Newcastle at Oakwell. In a game which featured well-

D Huckerby (Coventry) ..... 22.5m  
N Redfearn (Sheff Wed) ..... 22m  
A Booth (Sheff Wed) ..... 22m  
P Di Canio (Sheff Wed) ..... 22m  
W Jansen (Celtic) ..... 24m



Redfearn: one of several players benefiting from their clubs' upturn in form

## THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no transfers in ITF this week

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 18. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

| Code  | Name         | Team           | Cost (£m.) | Week Total |
|-------|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| 10101 | J Leighton   | Aberdeen       | 2.00       | -8 -11     |
| 10201 | D Seaman     | Arsenal        | 5.00       | -2 52      |
| 10301 | M Beaton     | Aston Villa    | 3.00       | 0 56       |
| 10401 | D Watson     | Barnsley       | 1.00       | 0 -34      |
| 10501 | T Flowers    | Blackburn R    | 1.50       | 3 41       |
| 10601 | K Branagan   | Bolton W       | 1.50       | 0 -38      |
| 10701 | S Kerr       | Celtic         | 4.00       | 0 0        |
| 10702 | J Gould      | Celtic         | 3.50       | 16 30      |
| 10801 | E De Goey    | Chelsea        | 3.00       | 7 60       |
| 10901 | S Ogrodnik   | Coventry City  | 1.50       | 0 17       |
| 11001 | C Nash       | Crystal Palace | 0.25       | 0 0        |
| 11002 | K Miller     | Crystal Palace | 2.00       | -5 24      |
| 11101 | M Poom       | Derby County   | 1.50       | -2 26      |
| 11201 | S Dykstra    | Dundee Utd     | 2.00       | 9 18       |
| 11301 | I Westbrook  | Dunfermline    | 1.00       | 7 8        |
| 11401 | N Southall   | Everton        | 2.00       | 0 3        |
| 11501 | G Roussel    | Hearts         | 3.50       | 9 55       |
| 11601 | C Reid       | Hibernian      | 1.50       | -3 0       |
| 11802 | O Gottschalk | Hibernian      | 1.50       | 0 4        |
| 11701 | D Lekovic    | Kilmarnock     | 1.00       | 2 -2       |
| 11801 | N Martyn     | Leeds Utd      | 3.50       | 7 55       |
| 11901 | K Keller     | Leicester City | 3.00       | -4 58      |
| 12001 | D James      | Liverpool      | 3.50       | 8 48       |
| 12101 | F Schmelzle  | Manchester Utd | 5.00       | 0 74       |
| 12201 | S Howie      | Motherwell     | 1.00       | 0 0        |
| 12301 | S Given      | Newcastle Utd  | 3.00       | 0 17       |
| 12401 | A Goram      | Rangers        | 5.00       | 0 29       |
| 12501 | K Prennan    | Sheffield Wed  | 2.00       | 5 -4       |
| 12702 | P Jones      | Southampton    | 1.00       | 3 0        |
| 12801 | A Main       | St Johnstone   | 0.50       | 2 20       |
| 12901 | I Walker     | Tottenham H    | 2.50       | -7 16      |
| 12901 | L Miklosko   | West Ham Utd   | 2.00       | 0 4        |
| 13001 | N Sullivan   | Wimbledon      | 2.50       | 7 51       |

| Code  | Name          | Team           | Cost (£m.) | Week Total |
|-------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| 30101 | B O'Neill     | Aberdeen       | 2.00       | -22        |
| 30201 | T Adams       | Arsenal        | 3.00       | -5 13      |
| 30202 | M Known       | Arsenal        | 3.00       | -2 2       |
| 30203 | G Grindam     | Arsenal        | 2.00       | 0 14       |
| 30204 | S Bould       | Arsenal        | 3.00       | 0 11       |
| 30205 | G Southgate   | Aston Villa    | 3.00       | 0 11       |
| 30302 | E Ehlohu      | Aston Villa    | 3.00       | 0 23       |
| 30401 | A Du Zuw      | Barnsley       | 1.00       | 0 -18      |
| 30402 | A Moses       | Barnsley       | 0.50       | -2 20      |
| 30403 | M Appleby     | Barnsley       | 0.50       | -5         |
| 30502 | C Hendry      | Blackburn R    | 3.00       | 0 16       |
| 30504 | S Henchoz     | Blackburn R    | 2.50       | 1 18       |
| 30505 | T Pedersen    | Blackburn R    | 2.00       | 0 2        |
| 30601 | G Taggart     | Bolton W       | 1.50       | 0 5        |
| 30602 | G Bergsma     | Bolton W       | 1.00       | -2 18      |
| 30603 | C Fairclough  | Bolton W       | 1.00       | -2         |
| 30604 | M Duberry     | Bolton W       | 1.00       | -1         |
| 30605 | B Clarke      | Bolton W       | 2.50       | 0 1        |
| 30701 | L Dashiell    | Coventry City  | 1.50       | 2 7        |
| 30702 | M MacKey      | Celtic         | 3.00       | 0 2        |
| 30703 | A Stubbs      | Celtic         | 3.00       | 10 36      |
| 30704 | M Reiper      | Celtic         | 3.00       | 6 38       |
| 30801 | F Labroue     | Chelsea        | 3.00       | 4 34       |
| 30802 | M Duberry     | Chelsea        | 3.00       | 4 28       |
| 30803 | R Shaw        | Chelsea        | 2.50       | 0 13       |
| 30901 | P Williams    | Coventry City  | 1.50       | 5 3        |
| 31001 | A Roberts     | Crystal Palace | 1.50       | -2 11      |
| 31002 | A Linighan    | Crystal Palace | 0.75       | -2 6       |
| 31003 | D Tuttle      | Crystal Palace | 0.75       | 0 4        |
| 31004 | H Hreidarsson | Crystal Palace | 1.00       | -2 10      |
| 31005 | R Shaw        | Crystal Palace | 1.50       | 5 8        |
| 31006 | J Stivimac    | Derby County   | 2.50       | -3 8       |
| 31007 | J Laursen     | Derby County   | 1.50       | 0 12       |
| 31008 | S Pressley    | Dundee Utd     | 2.00       | 4 16       |
| 31009 | G Shields     | Dunfermline    | 1.50       | 4 0        |
| 31010 | G Bell        | Everton        | 2.50       | 0 18       |
| 31011 | D Watson      | Everton        | 2.00       | 4 10       |
| 31012 | C Tiller      | Everton        | 1.50       | 4 8        |
| 31013 | D Weir        | Hearts         | 2.00       | 4 30       |
| 31014 | J Hughes      | Hibernian      | 2.00       | -1 2       |
| 31015 | D Wethamill   | Leeds Utd      | 2.50       | 4 31       |
| 31016 | G Helle       | Leeds Utd      | 2.00       | 4 19       |
| 31017 | R Molenaar    | Leeds Utd      | 2.00       | 0 9        |
| 31018 | L Radcliffe   | Leeds Utd      | 2.00       | 3 15       |
| 31019 | M Elliott     | Leicester City | 3.50       | -1 1       |
| 31020 | P Keasmark    | Leicester City | 2.00       | -1 27      |
| 31021 | S Walsh       | Leicester City | 2.50       | -1 33      |
| 31022 | S Prior       | Leicester City | 2.00       | -1 5       |
| 31023 | M Wright      | Liverpool      | 3.00       | 0 5        |
| 31024 | D Mattox      | Liverpool      | 3.00       | 5 18       |
| 31025 | B Kvarme      | Liverpool      | 3.00       | 5 28       |
| 31026 | H Berg        | Manchester Utd | 3.50       | 0 27       |
| 31027 | G Paulette    | Manchester Utd | 3.50       | 0 30       |
| 31028 | D Walker      | Manchester Utd | 3.50       | 0 30       |
| 31029 | D Peacock     | Newcastle Utd  | 2.50       | -2 8       |
| 31030 | S Howey       | Newcastle Utd  | 2.00       | 0 1        |
| 31031 | A Platone     | Newcastle Utd  | 3.00       | -2 7       |
| 31032 | P Ormonde     | Rangers        | 3.50       | 4 30       |
| 31033 | J Bjorklund   | Rangers        | 3.50       | 4 29       |
| 31034 | R Gough       | Rangers        | 3.50       | 0 5        |
| 31035 | D Walker      | Sheffield Wed  | 2.00       | 1 -1       |
| 31036 | J Newsonne    | Sheffield Wed  | 2.00       | 0 0        |
| 31037 | P Atherton    | Sheffield Wed  | 2.00       | 0 1        |
| 31038 | M Donnelly    | Southampton    | 1.00       | 1 2        |
| 31039 | R Dryden      | Southampton    | 1.00       | 0 8        |
| 31040 | C Lundekvam   | Southampton    | 1.00       | 1 7        |
| 31041 | K Monks       | Southampton    | 1.00       | 1 7        |
| 31042 | S McCluskey   | Southampton    | 1.00       | 1 1        |
| 31043 | R Gough       | Tottenham H    | 2.50       | 0 1        |
| 31044 | D Walker      | Tottenham H    | 2.50       | 0 1        |
| 31045 | D Peacock     | Tottenham H    | 2.00       | 0 7        |
| 31046 | J Newsonne    | Tottenham H    | 2.00       | 0 3        |
| 31047 | P Atherton    | Tottenham H    | 2.00       | 0 3        |
| 31048 | M Donnelly    | Tottenham H    | 2.00       | 0 3        |
| 31049 | R Dryden      | Tottenham H    | 2.00       | 0 3        |
| 31050 | C Lundekvam   | Tottenham H    |            |            |

## NEWS

**Britain puts health ban on EU beef**

■ Britain plunged into a new confrontation with Europe over beef when Jack Cunningham imposed a unilateral ban on imports that do not meet the safety standards required of British meat.

The Agriculture Minister announced his decision after the EU voted 14-1 to delay the introduction of such checks throughout the Community until next April. — Pages 1, 4

**'CJD' blood transfusion scare**

■ Up to 3,000 people treated in 100 British hospitals may have been injected with blood products taken from a donor who died six weeks ago from new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE. None of them is to be told because the Health Department believes the risk is so slight that there is no reason to cause alarm. — Page 1

**Traditional Hague**

William Hague and Fiona Jenkins, who have lived together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding and spend the night apart. — Page 2

**Dropping in**

There was only one certainty for a 56-year-old skydiver as he fell 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Ben Jones thought: "This is going to hurt". — Page 3

**Alan Clark sues**

The reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by newspaper articles under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court was told. — Page 5

**Princess inquiry**

The French magistrate leading the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is to wind up his inquiry after a failed search for a Fiat Uno. — Page 6

**Refugees murdered**

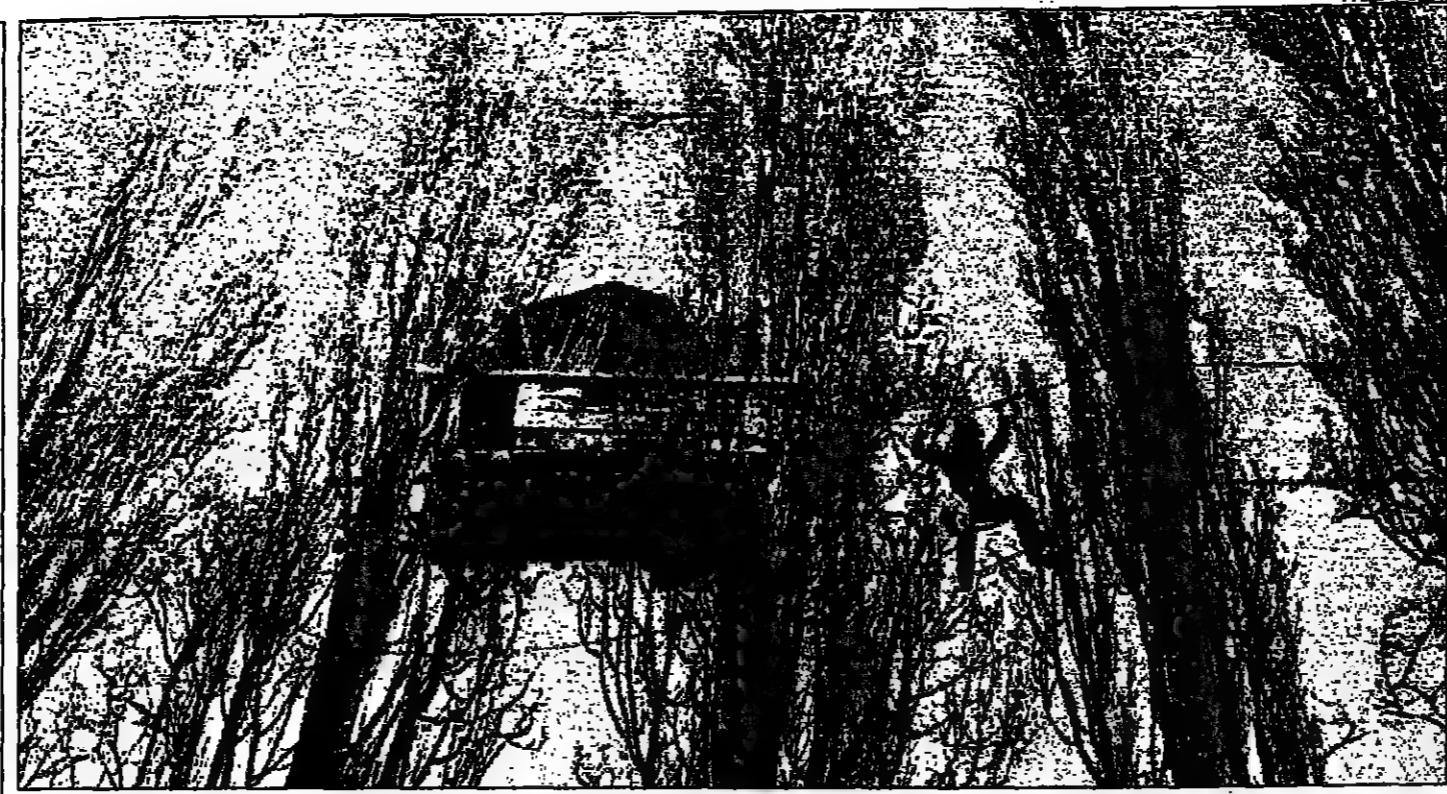
An elderly Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered by fellow countrymen. — Page 7

**Lawrence Inquiry**

An inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to the Police Complaints Authority. — Page 9

**Coldest day from eastern Europe**

■ Much of Britain will today experience the coldest day of winter with forecasters warning of below freezing conditions and snow. The coldest temperatures are expected in southern England as icy winds spread from eastern Europe. The London Weather Centre said everywhere across the South East would struggle to stay above zero today. — Pages 1, 12



Protesters man a tree house in poplars at Kingston, Surrey, which are threatened by a development being considered by the council

**BUSINESS**

**Asia turmoil:** Japan unveiled a 10 trillion yen package to stabilise its beleaguered financial system on the day that a survey of business confidence suggested that the country may be heading back into recession. — Page 25

**Bingo sale:** The shake-up of the UK bingo industry continued as Bass sold its Gala bingo chain to a management buy-in team for £275 million in cash. — Page 25

**Sears deal:** The troubled retail group has sold Shoe Express to a company owned by Philip Green in a deal worth at least £26.7 million. — Page 25

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 rose 76.6 to 5,218. The pound fell to 102.4, falling 1.98 cents to \$1.6329 and 4.02 pence to DM2,800. — Page 28

**Principles:** The FTSE 100 rose 76.6 to 5,218. The pound fell to 102.4, falling 1.98 cents to \$1.6329 and 4.02 pence to DM2,800. — Page 28

**Soft on dictators**

The American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards dictators. — Page 14

**Tigers ask for help**

The once proud leaders of the former so-called "tiger" economies of South-East Asia, reeling from failing stock markets, called for help. — Page 15

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struggle to stay above zero today. — Pages 1, 12

**SPORT**

**Cricket:** England defeated Pakistan in the Sharjah Trophy by eight runs and qualified for the final. Their opponents will be known after the game between West Indies and India. — Page 46

**Football:** England are set to take part in a pre-World Cup, four-nation tournament in Morocco in May alongside France, Belgium and the hosts. — Page 48

**Rugby union:** Wasps and Bath, the top two teams last season, conceded 50 points at the weekend, signalling a new order at the head of the English club game. — Page 45

**Boxing:** No matter how much Naseem Hamed's admirers believe he is the last word in boxing, he will never achieve recognition until he wins over America. — Page 48

**Snooker:** A new show at Manchester City Art Galleries is an admirable attempt to give some Pre-Raphaelite women artists long-overdue recognition. — Page 34

**Castles**

In Croydon, Phil Willmott reviews the 18th-century melodrama *The Castle Spectre*, but the result is more *Carry On* than Gothic horror. — Page 33

**Saints spasm:** A new show at Manchester City Art Galleries is an admirable attempt to give some Pre-Raphaelite women artists long-overdue recognition. — Page 34

**Libby Purves**

There comes a point when even Mrs Scoppy has to speak out against the drivelling infantilism advancing on Christmas. — Page 18

**PETER RIDDELL**

Geoffrey Robinson should not resign as a minister. His financial affairs are certainly strange and his explanations for his dealings with the Guernsey trust have been confusing and in some respects inconsistent. But nothing has so far emerged to suggest that he has done anything wrong as a Treasury minister. — Page 11

**ARTS**

**Torn curtain:** As the National Film Theatre devotes a season to the new wave of Russian film-makers, one of its leading lights, Sergei Bodrov, explains the challenges. — Page 32

**Global spirit:** Highlights of the weekend's world music festival at the Barbican included Nina Simone in good spirits, even if her voice may have lost some of its lustre. — Page 17

**Castle spires:** In Croydon, Phil Willmott reviews the 18th-century melodrama *The Castle Spectre*, but the result is more *Carry On* than Gothic horror. — Page 33

**Saints spasm:** A new show at Manchester City Art Galleries is an admirable attempt to give some Pre-Raphaelite women artists long-overdue recognition. — Page 34

**Windows:** Andrew Hinks thought he had nowhere to go as a window-dresser until he designed a jack-in-the-box. Now his business has a six-figure turnover. — Page 39

**Daphne Fielding, author; N. C. Sealesbury, librarian; The Earl of Dartmouth**

The British Prime Minister has missed an opportunity to justify his legitimate ambition by throwing himself into a battle to obtain a small say in the administration of a future single currency in which London will not immediately participate. By patching up a Franco-German alliance against him he has forced a rather shaky compromise on the co-ordination of political economics. — *Le Monde*

**Crime and Disorder Bill; NHS funding; safe havens for newborn; home births; holocaust claims; Gibraltar; Hong Kong tourism; Britannia; male bonding**

**Preview:** But was Elizabeth Taylor anything like the real Cleopatra? *Timewatch* (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph checks in at the hotel from hell. — Pages 42, 43

**Ministerial incapacity**

Ministers could justify exploring other ways of financing a safety net for the long-term sick. — Page 19

**Still staffing**

Saddam must be convinced that at least some members of the international community still have the stomach to take him on. — Page 19

**Wedding blues**

For all the happy symbolism there will still be Conservatives inclined to dismiss the nuances of the wedding list because they did not make the invitation list. — Page 19

**ANATOLE KALETSKY**

The threat to new Labour is that voters will stay exactly where they are but that Mr Blair will move so far to the Right that he leaves them high and dry. — Page 19

**MAGNUS LINCLATER**

The test of the Government's commitment to freedom of information will come when I confront a British general and he invites me in to rifle through his in-tray. — Page 18

**LIBBY PURVES**

There comes a point when even Mrs Scoppy has to speak out against the drivelling infantilism advancing on Christmas. — Page 18

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**TOMORROW****IN THE TIMES****HOMES**

End of the idyll: the family that failed to find Utopia in the country and came back to the city

**INTERFACE**

Why Desmond Llewelyn, gadget master of the Bond films, has trouble changing a light bulb

**AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY**

24 hrs to 5 pm: br=bright; cr=cloudy; d=dark; ds=dark storm; dr=dull; drs=drizzle; g=grey; gws=gale; h=heat;

l=light; lws=light wind; m=moderate; mws=moderate wind; n=north; nws=north wind; r=rain;

s=south; sw=south west; t=tropical; w=west; ws=west wind; x=x-wind; z=zephyr; — =no wind;

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## Robinson faces the heat from coal producers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE is mounting on the Government over its handling of the crisis in the coal industry. Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, yesterday faced growing unrest from the industry as he tried to broker deals with the three coal-burning generators to shore up supply arrangements with RJB Mining.

Mr Robinson will tonight hear a

demand from two of the smaller coal producers that there should be no sweetheart deals with RJB that would disadvantage rivals. Talks will take place with Midlands Mining and Scotland Mining, which sought clarification from the Prime Minister over his statement to the House of Commons last week that arrangements had been agreed between RJB Mining, National Power, PowerGen and The Energy Group to secure supplies beyond the March 31

expiry of current contracts until the end of June.

With the Government having activated a short-term plan to save the coal industry, which faced the threat of closure of up to eight pits and loss of 5,000 jobs, it is now facing increasing criticism that it is saving RJB at the cost of other producers.

Celcius Energy, the biggest Welsh mining company, is also likely to demand a level playing field. It has suggested that the output of Welsh

collieries could double to six million tonnes and will be keen that any market for extra coal that the Government may squeeze out of the generators will not all go to RJB.

Separately, Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, gave warning that the Government's "crisis management" action on coal may lead to less competition in electricity generation. It said that the government inquiry into the electricity trading market, announced in October, was

motivated by a concern that competition in generation sustains downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices. But it said the moratorium on new gas-fired stations was likely to impede generation competition and lower prices because coal-fired stations dominate the price-setting area of the market.

Confusion has also surrounded the deals between RJB and the generators, with conflicting reports about what has been agreed and by whom.

## Utilities face threat of millennium bug penalty

By CHRIS AYRES

PUBLIC utilities were warned yesterday that they could be penalised for breach of licence if they fail to tackle the millennium bug problem.

The threat was made by Don Cruickshank, chairman of Action 2000, the government-funded group established to confront the problem of computers that do not recognise the date 2000. The cost of making computers millennium-proof in the UK is estimated to be more than £3 billion, and is likely to be worsened by the introduction of the European single currency at the same time.

Mr Cruickshank, who works one day a week at Action 2000

### Pain joins the board at Abbey National

By MARIONNE CURPHEY

ABBEY NATIONAL has promoted Mark Pain, group financial controller, to the executive post of finance director, making him the youngest employee ever to be appointed to the board.

Mr Pain, 36, will take up his new position in the new year.

The boardroom reshuffle, announced after Ian Harley's appointment in October as chief executive designate to replace Peter Birch, also included the appointment to the board of Ian Treacy.

Mr Treacy is currently company secretary and will be joining the board on January 1, with responsibility for group risk management. Mr Treacy will be retaining the office of company secretary.

Mr Harley has made it clear that he would like to make a substantial acquisition in the fund management or life assurance sectors.

The bank also confirmed yesterday that Charles Toner, deputy chief executive, will head up a new wealth management division.

This will include the existing Glasgow and Dublin life assurance activities, the offshore retail businesses in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Hong Kong, together with the onshore retail business of Ceter Allen, the stockbroker.

The new division will target high net worth investors who have salaries or liquid assets of £100,000 or more, the bank said.

with a budget this year of just £1 million, was responding to accusations of government complacency. There is widespread concern that the UK economy will face chaos if companies do not begin to take action. Public services could also be affected, with a leading doctor warning last week that 1,500 hospital patients could die in the first weeks of 2000 because of the problem.

"This is not a case of red tape and procrastination," Mr Cruickshank said. "If I found that a company was putting an industry at risk, I would act. It would result in a breach of licence for utilities, and if there was a company which failed to appreciate the scale of the problem I would expect the rest of the industry to refuse to interconnect with it."

Mr Cruickshank emphasised that the millennium bug was mainly a business issue, and he urged companies to take early action. "I see my role as being to raise the tempo. It is not an IT or a government issue. This is becoming a real business issue, and the message is: get a grip."

He said the Government would take control of the problem in the public sector, and, justifying his threat to privatised utilities, said: "Voters will want the Government to help continue the supply of water, electricity and telecoms."

Action 2000 will launch a Web site and a telephone hotline early next year, and is encouraging companies to share information on how to tackle the bug. Mr Cruickshank said smaller businesses would have to rely on large companies to help them out.

Mr Cruickshank refused to estimate the cost of the millennium bug to industry. "It's a pointless exercise. It will have a dampening effect on the British economy, as bright IT people are made to solve a dull problem." He said the shortage of IT professionals would mean higher wage costs for businesses and the emergence of "cowboy" IT companies.

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FOUNTAIN Forestry Holdings, which provides forestry services in Britain and America, lifted pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £955,000 for the year to

September 30. Barry Gamble, the chairman, pictured, saw earnings rise 11 per cent to 7.9p a share. There is a final dividend of 1.83p, making a

2.75p total. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £21.8 million. The company floated on the Alternative Investment Market in December last year.

## Growth in pensions helps Standard Life to rise 20%

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

STANDARD LIFE, the mutual insurance company, yesterday said that it had enjoyed an exceptional year with new business worldwide up 20 per cent to £3.3 billion. This is a 50 per cent advance on 1995 when the insurance market slumped.

In the UK, new business income from life and pensions policies leapt 30 per cent to £49 million. New annual premiums were up 44 per cent to £272.4 million. The company was particularly successful in personal pensions where annual premi-

ums jumped 69 per cent to £154.6 million and single premiums increased 35 per cent to £89.4 million. Business in unit trusts and PEPs rose 38 per cent to £167.4 million.

Sales of managed and equity investment bonds, however, fell 15 per cent to £31.4 million, reflecting the company's withdrawal of profit bonds products a few years ago.

The company also increased its overall share of the life and pensions market from 6 per cent to 6.9 per cent. Its share of the intermediary IFA market

## Acer plant to create 1,000 jobs in Wales

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1,000 jobs are to be created in Wales with the opening of a £25 million plant by Acer, the Taiwanese computer business.

The company will produce computer monitors and peripherals at the factory in Wentloog, near Cardiff. The move is an important boost for inward investment after the recent decision by Toyota to choose France rather than the UK for new production. It will also ease concern that the troubles in Far Eastern markets will curb development in Europe by Asian companies.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said: "This is tremendous news for Wales and for Britain with another major overseas manufacturer choosing to invest here. We will see 1,000 direct new jobs created in a project which will link with a number of our existing inward investors in the electronics sector."

Wales has been at the centre of rows about regions luring inward investment from other areas. But Mr Davies denied that the Acer project had been "poached" from elsewhere in Britain. "We have worked as a cohesive team to secure this project. Our professional approach — which has respected the arrangements agreed with all other government departments — and the good commercial reasons for Acer choosing Wales, are factors that secured the project."

Acer will get grants from the regional selective assistance scheme on a gradual basis, increasing with the number of people employed in the factory. The plant will be built by the Welsh Development Agency for lease to Acer while the land, road access and environmental work will be provided by Cardiff County Council.

Graham Jackson, Acer UK's managing director, said: "This announcement reflects the tremendous growth we have shown over the past 12 months. As we continue to grow, the intention is to open more manufacturing plants in the UK to cope with the increased European demand for our PC, notebook and server products."

Production at the site will begin next year with full production expected to be reached within five years.

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Westminster Health sells homes to rival

WESTMINSTER HEALTH CARE HOLDINGS, the private nursing home group, is selling 12 care homes in the UK to Tamaris, a smaller rival, with a price tag of a little more than £20 million. The deal, which involves the transfer of 698 beds, includes seven homes in England and five in Northern Ireland. Proceeds from the deal will be ploughed into other healthcare markets, Westminster said, while Tamaris emphasised that the move would strengthen its position in the long-term care market. The deal, which is subject to the approval of Tamaris shareholders, will be structured as a mix of £15.5 million in cash and the rest in shares.

Westminster also announced it has teamed up with Holiday Retirement Corporation, the US retirement home firm, to form a healthcare financing division. The company will be called Atlantic Healthcare Finance and is intended to tap into the growing sale and leaseback market for healthcare properties.

### Wedgwood leads world

WATERFORD WEDGWOOD has secured its position as the world's largest ceramics and crystal manufacturer after gaining control of more than 50 per cent of Rosenthal, of Germany. The enlarged group will have sales in excess of £1530 million (£470 million), boasting a leading position in markets in America, Japan, the UK, Ireland and continental Europe. The company expects to incur a £127 million charge against the restructuring of the loss-making German group.

### BICC's double delight

BICC COMMUNICATIONS, a subsidiary of BICC Group, the UK cables and construction conglomerate, has won two contracts worth more than £100 million over the next three years. BICC Communications, which was formed last May, will work with Cable & Wireless Communications to supply optical and metallic cable solutions for nationwide telecommunications and cable television networks. The other contract is to supply cable to ESAT Telecom in the Republic of Ireland.

### Healthcall approached

SHARES of Healthcall Group rose 9p to 79p yesterday after the medical services company said it had received a takeover approach from its executive directors, backed by NatWest Equity Partners "at a small premium to the current share price". At yesterday's price the company is worth £44 million. It was floated on the stock market at 105p a share and reached a high of 146p early last year. In 1996, the company earned pre-tax profits of £5.35 million on turnover of £55.3 million.

### Plysu edges ahead

PLYSU, the plastic products company, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.9 million, from £3.6 million, in the half year to September 30, despite the strength of sterling. Earnings rose to 5.6p a share, from 4.9p, and the interim dividend, up 10 per cent to 2.2p. David O'Shaughnessy, chairman, said the full benefit of recent investment and acquisitions would be seen in the next financial year. Turnover of £71.1 million, compared with £67.1 million in the first half of the previous year.

### Avocet digs up \$13.9m

AVOCET MINING, whose shares have fallen sharply this year because of weak gold prices, has realized a gain of \$13.9 million (£8.5 million) by liquidating its gold hedge. The proceeds, together with cash on deposit, have repaid \$16 million of borrowings from Macquarie Bank. The company was announcing reduced pre-tax losses of \$902,000, from £2.98 million, in the half year to September 30. Losses were 2.6p a share (9.4p loss). There is again no dividend.

### Aromascan holds steady

LOSSES at Aromascan, the digital aroma technology company, held steady at £1.07 million before tax in the half year to October 31, against £1.09 million previously. Richard Lyman, chairman, said the company expected to be able to announce progress in the alliance with Mitsubishi Electric at the financial year end. Interim losses were 3.97p a share (4.06p loss) and there is again no dividend. Aromascan has £2.3 million of cash in the bank. The shares were unchanged at 30p yesterday.

### McBride acquisition

MCBRIDE, the household products company, has agreed to buy Grada, a maker of private label and minor brand household cleaning products in the Netherlands, for a maximum profit-related consideration of £11.7 million, including acquired debt. Grada's holding company registered a £240,000 pre-tax loss in 1996 but McBride said the business now trades at a profit after a recovery in the Dutch market. McBride will pay an initial £1.58 million in cash.

### Coats Viyella demerging

SHARES of Coats Viyella rose 14p to 115p after it confirmed it would put forward proposals for the demerger of the contract clothing, fashion and branded clothing and home furnishings divisions from the engineering businesses tomorrow, when it is due to publish an update on current trading. Analysts believe the demerger could produce two stand-alone companies with a combined stock market value of around £1 billion, against yesterday's valuation of around £812 million. Tempus, page 28

### UAL forecast lifts shares

UAL CORPORATION, parent of United Airlines, said yesterday that it expected its fourth-quarter income to exceed Wall Street estimates, triggering a sharp rally in its stock. Shares in UAL were up \$3.25 at \$87.25 (£52.87) in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange. UAL expects its earnings per share to exceed the consensus forecast of \$1.58. Gerald Greenwald, chairman, said that fourth-quarter and 1998 booking trends for the airline have not changed.

## Mortgage rate put on hold at Nationwide

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

A £50,000 mortgage £1,011 better off over seven years. A Nationwide spokesman said that its rate would rise only if base rates increased again.

Meanwhile, Bradford & Bingley, the second-largest mutual society, which kept its standard variable rate steady at 7.95 per cent last month, said it expects base rates to go up again in January. "We want to maintain our rate advantage over the banks, but just what the gap will be depends on the competitors."

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## CAT extends drug trials

By PAUL DURMAN

HUMAN testing of three more potential drugs is expected to begin next year at Cambridge Antibody Technology (CAT), which raised £41 million in a flotation in March, raising to five the number of products in clinical development.

Techniclon, CAT's US partner, will shortly begin recruiting patients for trials of a brain cancer product. The two companies are also planning a separate solid tumour study next year, while CAT expects to begin tests of an antibody to prevent fibrosis, one of the

biggest problems in eye surgery.

David Chiswell, chief executive, said CAT will license in further therapeutic "targets" to ensure internal competition for limited research and development resources.

CAT's R&D spending will total £18 million (£8.3 million) in the year to September 30. With only £1.1 million (£2.1 million) of revenues, including a payment from Knoll, CAT's partner on rheumatoid arthritis treatment, the company reported a pre-tax loss of £8.4 million (£3.3 million loss).

## Study to recommend same ownership quotas as TV

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

A NEW study now being finalised will conclude that commercial radio groups must be able to become considerably larger if current growth in the sector is to be sustained. Nera (National Economic Research Associates) the consultancy group specialising in communications issues, was commissioned this year by the Commercial Radio Companies Association, the industry trade body, to carry out an investigation on the future of radio.

The Nera study is expected to argue that the same ownership rules applied to commercial tele-

vision should apply to radio — something that would allow commercial radio groups to almost double in size. The television rules allow ITV companies to own 15 per cent of total viewing including the BBC, although there are additional constraints on advertising sales.

Radio ownership is judged on a points system, with points awarded on the number and size of radio licences held. No one group can own more than 15 per cent of points in the system. The key difference with television is that in radio the BBC is excluded from the reckoning.

NERA will recommend that the limits on radio ownership should, like television, be based on 15 per cent of listening figures, including BBC figures.

It is also expected to recommend

| Bank         | Buy   | Sell  |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| Australia \$ | 2.59  | 2.41  |
| Austria Sch  | 21.28 | 19.69 |
| Belgium F    | 3.02  | 2.91  |
| Canada \$    | 2.444 | 2.293 |
| Cyprus Cyp   | 0.894 | 0.823 |
| Denmark Kr   | 0.529 | 0.525 |
| France Fr    | 10.16 |       |

**W**hen Sears hired David James as company doctor to sort out its shoe business it knew what it was getting into. James is famed for a scoured earth policy in which he will spend 99p to release £1 of value. His decision to close down British Shoe Corporation, which at one point sold one shop in four in the UK, was difficult for Sears' existing management to take, having invested so much time and energy in the business. James could be guaranteed to take the tough decision. And if it was wrong, at least he had a much better chance of getting it right than a Sears insider.

This latest deal has a strange familiarity about it. The purchaser of the Shoe Express chain is Philip Green, who investors will remember with little affection from his days running Amber Day (now known as WEW Group). Two years and 20 days previously, Green was behind another purchase from Sears, that of the Olympus sports goods chain. Sears said it received £53 million for that business and had to make write-offs of £65 million. Even that figure included the repayment of inter-company debt and the transfer of a brand new retail computer system that the purchasers, Sports Division, reckon was worth most of the acquisition price in itself.

By exiting from that sector, Sears managed to miss out on the boom in sports leisure goods

that has gripped the country — after spending large amounts of time, money and energy developing the perfect business for that boom. Sports Division is now returning to the stock market, its flotation timed for next spring. The valuation is expected to reach £400 million, of which half could be attributed to the Olympus chain, which Sears was so keen to sell.

That disposal spree, of course, included the decision to sell Freeman Hardy Willis and Saxon to Stephen Hinchliffe and his Facempire. Those sales, of course, came back to haunt Sears when Facia collapsed a few months later. David James, showing that he is one of the few businessmen who actually learns something from history, is keen not to repeat the errors of the Facia deal. Accordingly this sale to Philip Green takes full account of any potential problems that might arise from assigning leases to Almery, Green's company. Landlords by nature are risk averse, and with the best will in the world, Almery is not as good a covenant as Sears. James has made sure the deal takes account of any inducements needed to persuade reluctant landlords of the wisdom of the transient.

So where now for Sears? It is still trying to sell Freemans after Margaret Beckett spoilt its plans to flog it to Littlewoods. It still needs to sell Shoe City and Cable, though those deals cannot be too far off. This will leave a rump that is largely Selfridges. Of course, given the recent performance of Harvey Nichols, there is a question mark about how valuable a fashion department store actually is. It never rains but it pours.

#### Japan wraps a new suspect package

Japan's Prime Minister seems at last to have got the message. Ryutaro Hashimoto has let it be known that he has another expansion package up his sleeve. He has, it seems, agreed to set up a £50 billion fund to back bank deposits, and to buy stock issues made by banks whose capital has been

washed away by the ebb tide of asset prices. As with all Japan's expansion or rescue packages over the past eight years, it is best not to get carried away by the potential figures. Whatever happened, for instance, to the huge property buy-in that was going to resolve matters once and for all?

The OECD, along with the IMF, whose combined initiatives have done so much to wreck the Asian economies, clearly has little to offer. Within six months, it has had to cut its estimate of Japanese recovery this year from 2.3 to 0.8 per cent. For next year, forecasts of growth from the OECD's economists have already come down from 2.9 to 1.7 per cent. They will have to fall even further if Korea's crisis still festers after Thursday's election.

As a long-term cure, the OECD keeps on prescribing the conventional Western solutions that were, for instance, in part responsible for the asset price bubble that has burst in the face

of Japanese consumers. For the short-term, much incoherent throat-clearing and mumbling can be heard emanating from the OECD's Paris headquarters.

Monetary easing would be great but there's not much point when interest rates are near zero. So it has to be fiscal expansion. But was it not conventional international wisdom to nag Japan to be more fiscally responsible, cut spending and the budget deficit to prepare for that all-purpose macroeconomic bugbear: an ageing population?

Indeed, the OECD must hedge against reality. "Nevertheless" it argues, no doubt with a straight corporate face, "in the short-run, greater consideration should be given to possible ways to ease the fiscal stance without losing sight of medium-term objectives". Reverting to the standard script, it then suggests a tax cut.

Lo and behold, Mr Hashimoto is expected to announce one today, though not big enough or

credible enough. "If it's hurting, it's working" John Major used to say. The refrain of pain and delation will not, however, solve the problems of Korea, let alone Japan, where lack of demand has led to a loss of confidence. Resort to the printing press, with its in-built threat of future inflation, is more likely to get Tokyo's shoppers out on the streets to spend.

#### Beauty of bimbos may be skin deep

Once a company's management loses the confidence of institutional investors, it is hard to regain. That means the share price is likely to lag behind recovery, prolonging the embarrassment of fund managers.

The solution is for some outsider to see value in the company and its executives and mount a takeover with their help.

In the argot of venture capital, these are "bimbos", or buy-in management buyouts. Yesterday, two more were launched. Wellman, the engineering group, promised a brighter future before only to disappoint. Now Jon Moulton's Alchemy group is backing management to make it happen second time round. Cash

flows to big shareholders such as M&G and Mercury HealthCare, which supplies duty doctors, was a promising new issue, then had a temporary setback that put the cautious off for years. Venture Capital, in co-operation with management, is offering cash to the likes of Jupiter and PDEM.

At this time of year, such deals allow fund managers to contemplate the festive redundancy season with better performance figures. Managers and venturers get geared growth, if they have got it right. Everyone wins.

Or do they? When outsiders help managers to buy out a conglomerate's unwanted subsidiary, group bosses should handle any conflict of interest. This is harder when managers of a quoted company back a cash offer. And are these really the sort of companies that institutional investors should cash in at this stage of the cycle?

#### Television star

The news that Roger Luard is in demand — apparently as a potential chief executive of the Carlton/Granada venture, British Digital Broadcasting — comes as some surprise. The Flextex chief executive is supposed to be "well regarded" in the TV world. But his company has made a profit in only one of the last five years and is valued at ten times its turnover. This is ominously like the sort of financial performance many fear BDB might deliver.

## MFI cuts jobs despite an increase in profits

BY CARL MORTISHED

MFI is on a drive to halt a rise in fixed costs that is holding back a profits recovery.

Britain's largest furniture retailer has laid off 100 staff at 14 branches as it consolidates its home-delivery service at new distribution centres. More redundancies are expected but John Randall, chief executive, poured cold water on reports of 1,000 job cuts, pointing to growth in the retail chain: "We could end up with more staff in a year's time than we have now."

Shares in MFI rose 4p to 125p as the company reported an 8 per cent rise in sales in the 28 weeks to November 8 with sales per square foot up 6.8 per cent. MFI's gross margin rose, almost two points to 55 per cent and the pre-tax profit for

the half year was up 8 per cent to £35.4 million.

However, MFI is having trouble converting the sales and gross margin gain into better net margins and bottom-line profits. Mr Randall said that the current structure of the business meant that growth in sales led to higher costs. "There is an element of inefficiency," he said.

In the half year, staff costs rose almost 10 per cent to £99.2 million, the company added 20 temporary distribution centres to accommodate the company's strategy of converting the core of the business to home delivery.

MFI already has four dedicated distribution centres and an investment of £25 million over the next 18 months will

lead to 12 such facilities and the disappearance of stores and warehouses at MFI's 185 retail outlets.

Mr Randall said: "The objective is to expand our net margin. Last year it was 9 per cent. We want to see it well into double figures." MFI's operating profit as a percentage of sales in the first 28 weeks of the financial year slipped below 8 per cent because of a surge in staff costs and a rise in the depreciation charge.

MFI's French operations showed a small increase in sales but the strength of the pound meant that revenues on translation fell 11 per cent with a loss for the period of £2.7 million.

Mr Randall said that Hygena was the number two

kitchen brand in France. "Our main problem is that we do not have enough stores," he said.

MFI expects to convert all of its old stores to the new Homeworks format during the next 18 months with 123 stores out of the 185 total already refitted. The UK retail operations sublet a further 150,000 sq ft of redundant space, leaving 190,000 sq ft still requiring a tenant.

MFI's borrowings were £47.5 million at the end of the period with capital expenditure expected to be £80 million for the full year. Earnings per share were 4.24p and the interim dividend is up 6 per cent to 1.8p.

Temps page 28

## TJ Hughes to open new stores

BY JASON NISET

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator, yesterday said that its development programme is accelerating and revealed plans for three store openings (Chris Ayres writes).

The company has seen its share price rise 52p to 121.5p this year on the back of its ambitious expansion programme. Sales last year were £60 million.

TJ Hughes said a contract had been signed for a new 40,000 sq ft store in Blackburn, Lancashire,

which is expected to open in April 1998. It is also opening a store next year in Shrewsbury, and plans to open another in Burnley in autumn 1999. When all projects are completed, TJ Hughes will have 355,000 sq ft of selling space in 21 stores.

## Domecq top pay up, profits down



Hales: performance rise

TONY HALES, the chief executive of Allied Domecq, enjoyed a 34 per cent increase in his total pay package to £94,000 last year, when the drinks group suffered a fall in its operating profits.

Mr Hales received a performance-related bonus on £154,000, up from £42,000 the previous year. The total performance-related payout for the board rose from £187,000 to £190,000.

During the year Mr Hales was also awarded 93,448 share options at an exercise price of 427.5p each. Yesterday Allied Domecq shares closed at 535p, up 9.5p, valuing these options at £100,000.

In the year to August 31 the group's operating profits slipped from £729 million to £715 million, largely due to disposals. However, pre-tax profits jumped from £26.5 million to

£602 million, largely due to the absence of losses made on disposals.

In its annual report Allied Domecq says that performance-related payments are made on the basis of targets for profits before tax, cash management and certain key management objectives.

## Christie's formally enters talks

CHRISTIE'S International has formally entered negotiations with SBC Warburg Dillon Read in connection with a possible bid, valuing the fine art auctioneer at about £500 million, or 300p a share (Jon Ashworth writes). SBC Warburg confirmed that it had made a preliminary offer on behalf of a consortium of private investors.

Reports that the banking house is looking to buy Christie's outright are understood to be incorrect. An offer would only be made subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence and with the recommendation of the Christie's board.

Directors of Christie's agreed to proceed with negotiations at a meeting on Sunday night.

Merrill Lynch International was yesterday appointed joint corporate stock broker with SBC Warburg. Christie's shares fell 12p to 288p. Commentary, this page

## Receivers appointed at Brent Walker

BY CHRIS AYRES

JOHN LEACH, chief executive of Brent Walker, was last night looking for a new job after the debt-laden leisure and property empire finally crumbled and receivers were appointed.

Mr Leach will be joined in his search for work by Keith Dibble, Brent Walker's finance director. Both men effectively destroyed their own jobs by selling off the company's assets in an effort to claw back a significant proportion of its £1.5 billion debt. The receivers appointed yesterday were Scott Barnes and Martin Ellis, partners at Grant Thornton.

The company, a star of the Stock Exchange in the 1980s, nearly collapsed because of debts in 1991. George Walker, the former boxer who founded the business, was ousted from the board shortly afterwards. He later became involved in a prolonged legal dispute with the company.

Brent Walker continued to suffer after Mr Walker's departure and became embroiled in a further legal dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the acquisition of its William Hill betting chain.

Since then, Mr Leach has made a series of disposals. Last year Brent Walker sold Puhmaster, the pub chain, to a syndicate of venture capitalists led by NatWest Ventures for £171 million. The company's disposal programme was completed two weeks ago when it sold William Hill to Nomura for £700 million.



## Channel pegs payout

CHANNEL HOLDINGS, the electronic systems and security products company, is holding the interim dividend at 0.55p a share despite lifting pre-tax profit to £1.8 million (£1.4 million) in the half year to October 31. The company said it had made progress despite a slow-

down in orders from the Ministry of Defence, which affected the electronic systems division. Channel recently signed a multi-million pound long-term collaboration agreement with Thomson Thorn Missile Electronics. Interim earnings were 1.3p a share (ip).

## Elan enters agreed bid for Sano of America

BY MARTIN BAILEY

ELAN CORPORATION, the drug delivery and biopharmaceutical company based in the Republic of Ireland, has launched an agreed bid for America's Sano Corporation, valuing the company at \$375 million. It was announced yesterday.

Sano develops proprietary and generic products through the use of the company's own delivery systems.

The company, based in Florida, received Food and Drug Administration approval for one generic transdermal product earlier this year and has a portfolio of generic products at various stages of development.

Sano's shares trade on America's Nasdaq market, where its capitalisation has risen above \$248 million at the end of September from \$142.6 million at the end of 1996. The company incurred losses of \$1 million in 1996 and lost \$12.7 million in the first nine months of the current year.

Elan is offering \$35.50 in shares for each Sano share. Elan said the transaction would have a neutral impact on earnings in 1998.

In the first nine months of the current year, Elan, whose shares are listed in London, Dublin and New York, has earned net income of \$123.4 million on revenues of \$79.8 million. In the last full year net income was \$87.2 million. The company is capitalised at around \$5.37 billion.

out that it is now more than three-and-a-half years since Mr Farrar was named as chief executive designate, yet profit margins have declined over the period. Vincent Corbo, president and chief operating officer of Hercules, said: "The speciality chemicals industry has been at that improving costs and processes for some time. But it does not appear to be a strong priority for Allied Colloids."

Mr Farrar has been on the board of Colloids since 1990 and previously ran the US business which, Mr Corbo said, had produced very poor returns on capital.

Hercules also criticised the £244 million Colloids spent on the US acquisition of CPS last year. It said the price included £22 million of good will, which will have to be written off against profits under new accounting rules. It said the deal would dilute earnings and expressed concern about the age of the CPS facilities.

Hercules said Colloids had consistently disappointed with its earnings. Colloids responded that the group had an outstanding record of organic growth and management was already achieving operating margin improvements.

Allied Colloids attacked over costs

BY PAUL DURMAN

HERCULES, the American chemicals company bidding £1.1 billion for Allied Colloids, has criticised its target for the time it has taken the Bradford company to get to grips with its costs.

Allied Colloids' defence is based on persuading shareholders that they have yet to see the full benefit of cost-cutting and production efficiency improvements adopted since David Farrar took over as chief executive in July 1995.

However, Hercules yesterday pointed

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer  
of the Year

# Shares pick up pace on hopes of seasonal rally

INVESTORS have entered into the spirit of Christmas, ignoring the turbulent events in the Far East.

Brokers say share prices could still enjoy the traditional pre-Christmas rally, with some of them setting a target price of between 5,200 and 5,300. The equity market appeared to grow in confidence as the day wore on, with prices being squeezed higher in thin conditions as the cash market narrowed the gap on a strong future.

The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a jump of 76.6 to 5,121.8 on total turnover of fewer than 600 million shares.

There was the usual flurry of speculative buying among the banks. Northern Rock rose 14p to 564p with the speculators convinced it will soon be on the receiving end of a bid from Lloyds TSB. Up 28p at 705p, Barclays Bank jumped 79p to 171.5 and NatWest Bank put on 211p at 909p on persistent talk the pair may end up merging.

Sedgwick Group saw its shares touch 171p, convinced that it would be on the receiving end of a £1 billion bid from Aon Corporation, the US insurance broker. But Sedgwick went out of its way to denounce weekend reports by saying there had been no talks with Aon. Sedgwick closed 2p better at 150p.

Christie's International came off the boil, falling 12p to 268p after City spectators expressed disappointment at the revised terms from SBC Warburg Dillon Read of 300p a share. The new terms value the fine art auctioneer at £1 billion and the board must decide whether it is going to accept them.

Grand Metropolitan firmed 3p to 585p and Guinness 2p to 586p as the US Federal Trade Commission removed the final barrier to the merger. But to comply with the FTC, the enlarged company, soon to be renamed Diageo, must dispose of the world rights to Dewars Scotch and Bombay dry gin.

Blue Circle Industries enjoyed a new lease of life as the price added 9p at 336p, with the market convinced that the proposed merger of Guinness and GrandMet could be positive for the company, with another constituent required to make up the numbers. It means that BCI may still be able to hold on to its position



The bid for Christie's International, down 12p, disappointed

as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

Newamer Energis continued to lose ground, falling 5p to 270p. Not only has it failed to clinch a place as a constituent of the FTSE 250 index, but Lehman Brothers, US securities house, claims the shares are overvalued.

Half-year figures from MFI Furniture came in at the top end of expectations and the

shares responded with a rise of 31p at 125p. John Randall, chief executive, has confirmed a major overhaul of the business is under way.

British Airways took off with a jump of 20p to 572p after SBC Warburg Dillon Read moved its recommendation from "add" to "buy". Word is that agreement may be close with the European Commission to allow the pro-

posed link-up with American Airlines to proceed.

Lack of news on the Abbott Laboratories link-up left Shield Diagnostics 712p lower at 740p. But brokers say the deal should be confirmed this week and may be quickly followed by a full bid for the company. Shield has developed a relatively simple process, Advanced Factor 12, for detecting coronary problems in the early stages through a series of blood tests.

Deals in Cordiant and Saatchi & Saatchi got underway after the split into two separate companies. Both started life at 112p, with Cordiant touching 1121p lower, finishing 31p easier at 109p, while Saatchi & Saatchi finished 2p cheaper at 110p.

It was the first day of dealings for Property Asset Holdings after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 6p. The shares started life at 7p before settling at 7p, a premium of 1p.

The abandonment of bid talks left Widney nursing a fall of 51p at 381p. The mechanical and electronic engineering group is now looking at various ways of enhancing shareholder value.

Wellman ended 3p firmer at 401p on news of the agreed terms from Newmills, the newly formed investment consortium, which is offering 50p a share. The terms value the engineer at £73 million.

**GILT-EDGED:** Investors appear to be taking a cautious view of events ahead of the crucial retail sales data expected on Thursday. Analysts say another subdued performance by consumers may be enough to prevent the sixth rate rise since May.

Sentiment was also bolstered by the latest OECD survey showing a further slow-down in economic growth to 2.2 per cent next year.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt was unchanged at £1211p in moderate turnover.

Just days after Merrill Lynch, the broker, cut its oil forecast for next year by \$1 to \$18, so will de Broe, its rival, has gone one better and reduced its forecast by around two million barrels a day. This could lead to the price dropping to \$16 a barrel during that quarter.

He is a seller of the sector, but retained weightings should include Shell, up 17p at 447p after a meeting with analysts on Friday.

Others include Enterprise Oil 2p better at 589p, Hardy Oil & Gas, unchanged at 285p, and Premier, down 3p at 551p.

"Everything looks bleak

for the oil price. The outlook for the second quarter looks even worse," he said.

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Others include Enterprise Oil

A bingo hall would seem an unlikely place to find a venture capitalist. Despite efforts to put forward a more modern image and draw younger crowds — measures that have led to the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds — bingo is hardly a sexy investment, not on a par with a biotechnology start-up or an Internet trailblazer.

The venture capitalists think otherwise. Yesterday, PPM Ventures, the Prudential's venture capital arm, backed a £279 million management buy-in at Gala, the bingo arm of Bass. Last month, Hambro European Ventures bought 19 bingo clubs from Vardon for £305 million and venture capitalists have been tipped as possible bidders for the clubs owned by First Leisure, which have attracted disposal rumours.

Their interest comes despite falling profits in the industry, dominated by Gala and Mecca, which is owned by Rank. Bingo was hit hard by the introduction of the National Lottery and, in particular, lottery scratchcards. Operat-

## Venture capitalists stake their money on a numbers game

ing profits at Gala fell from £31 million in the 1995-96 financial year. In the 1996-97 period, this had fallen to £24 million.

Jimmy Thomas, chairman of the Bingo Association of Great Britain, claims the venture capitalists smell an imminent change in the way bingo halls are taxed.

He says the industry has been hammered by a 10 per cent betting levy, taken from the stakes only, while other forms of gambling have seen taxation fall below this level. Despite their falling income, bingo companies have been obliged by competition not to drop their prize money, he says. Pressures of this sort prompted Bass to write down the value of its Gala clubs by £17 million earlier this month.

The new Labour Govern-

ment, Mr Thomas feels, may be more likely to lower the bingo tax. In the meantime, he says: "There are now about 250 clubs at risk of closing if there isn't some change in taxation." These include small town-centre halls that are often located in areas where unemployment is already

of the management buy-in at Gala, says the chance of a tax change was never a motivation. Nor is the Gala deal a covert property play, aimed at getting hold of the more attractive sites in the Gala portfolio.

He says the deal makes sense because the effect of the National Lottery on takings

is the Government approved legislation to remove all restrictions on advertising, as well as permitting the use of debit cards for payment. PPM Ventures and the Gala managers believe this freedom will enable them to compete on more equal terms with the National Lottery.

Peter Taylor, a director of Hambo European Ventures (HEV), claims the National Lottery was not the only thing keeping down profits at bingo clubs. "A lot of the problem was bad management." He claims that some operators allowed themselves to get bogged down in price wars to the detriment of their businesses.

The Vardon clubs bought by HEV tend to be located in secondary towns where there is no competition from another bingo chain.

**'People are still not going to pop in to bingo on their way to the disco'**

high. About 100 clubs have closed since the National Lottery started, involving the loss of about 3,200 jobs, says Mr Thomas.

But what do the venture capitalists themselves have to say? Alastair Mackintosh of PPM Ventures, which is not revealing the equity structure

has levelled off. "The major drivers of the business are predominantly positive. Admissions are starting to increase."

Total stakes in the year to March 1997 were almost £1 billion, up 7 per cent. Another growth factor is deregulation. In April 1997,

One leisure analyst says Rank stands out from the other big operators as the most committed investor in bingo. "It has kept on plugging in money and effort."

"They have roughly the same number of sites as Bass had but I think they have been more selective with their acquisition of sites."

He said Rank's progress in rolling out the bigger, purpose-built clubs, often on the edge of towns, was hampered by weaker returns from older sites, such as converted bingo halls.

It is widely held that the newer, larger, "flat floor" sites are the way forward. They can offer restaurants, bars and car parking — the latter being vital for older, more vulnerable clientele at night.

They appear to have had some success in driving down the average age of the bingo punter, but there is scepticism about how far this could go. One analyst concludes: "People are still not going to pop in to bingo on their way to the disco."

ADAM JONES

## American booksellers offer Britain chapter and verse on the future

**Independents face threat from US methods and stores, says Ian Brodie**

Every Saturday, and often during the week, my local bookshop in the Washington suburbs is packed. It is a Borders superstore that is vast yet also warm and inviting.

Browsing is positively encouraged. Armchairs and sofas are scattered about. There are no hassles if you loiter at the maze of magazine racks or sneak a look at the latest American and foreign newspapers and then quietly put them back on the shelf.

Every day sees a special event, from rap sessions with authors to readings for local poets and performances by instrumental groups. You can dawdle over a cappuccino while leafing through books that have caught your fancy from the 150,000 titles on offer.

It is known as a place for chance encounters and some lone readers discreetly eye the possibilities, finding the atmosphere far less pressured than a singles bar. It is also a draw for families with a spacious children's section displaying an irresistible array of books and toys just waiting to be picked up. The music department has a hundred sets of headphones for sampling CDs from pop to an extensive range of jazz, classics and new age.

The Borders experience is known in the book trade as "destination shopping". The aim is to make going to Borders an outing, rather than just nipping into a shop to buy a book.

Amazingly, there are now 200 Borders in America plus a further 469 similar superstores owned by Barnes and Noble. Both firms compete aggressively and continue to expand rapidly. The consequences for bookselling in the US are profound and are



Browsing is encouraged in the new-style bookshops where spacious children's sections are proving a draw for families

starting to affect Britain, where the trade is in a volatile phase. The first British Borders will open next June in Leeds. If that goes well, London will probably be next. Last September, Borders bought Books Etc, the British independent chain, just as it was about to go public.

Speculation has grown that Barnes and Noble is surveying the British market and even scouting locations. A spokesman for the company said there were no specific plans to extend internationally, but she admitted: "I'm sure we have people exploring possibilities and feasibilities overseas."

Barnes and Noble could buy more than half of Borders' stake in Britain by making a bid for Waterstone's. Its parent, WH Smith, wants to spin off the chain in the spring. Meanwhile, Waterstone's has opened a Borders-style store in Sainsbury Street, Glasgow, and it is doing better than expected.

Asked whether Barnes and Noble will be able to compete with Borders, a spokesman said: "We are

Many American booklovers are pleased by the enticing new bookshops carrying thousands of volumes, but there is a gloomy side to the spread of these "category killers". The share of volumes sold by independent bookshops has dropped in the past four years from one in four to one in five. At least several hundred independents have been forced to close, according to Avin Mark Domitz, director of the American Booksellers Association, who said: "It's my opinion that a significant portion of those losses were because of competition brought on by chains."

His association alleges that American publishers improperly sell books to chains on advantageous terms. One result is unbridled discounting of retail prices. Mr Domitz predicted a similar upheaval in Britain with the loss of the Net Book Agreement.

Some independents are hitting back successfully. Elaine Petrocelli was chosen as Pub-

lishers Weekly's bookseller of the year for the panache of the shop Book Passage that she runs with her husband Bill in the well-to-do environs north of San Francisco. They have a welcoming ambience that equals Borders.

In Atlanta, Barbara Babbitt Kaufman has taken on the giant by offering deep discounts in her thriving local chain of 11 shops. In deliberate contrast to "destination shopping", she emphasises the convenience of her branches in suburban neighbourhoods, with easy parking and quick access.

**B**ookselling has also entered the uncertain realm of the Internet. Amazon.com calls itself "Earth's biggest bookstore" with an online catalogue of 2.5 million titles, equivalent to 40 New York phone books. Jeff Bezos founded the firm in his garage two-and-a-half years ago. This

year his sales for the third quarter were \$38 million, a 36 per cent increase over the previous quarter, but his net loss was \$2.5 million.

Mr Bezos said he was still losing money because of heavy investment for the future in infrastructure, marketing and distribution. He predicted that 10 to 15 per cent of books worldwide will eventually be sold on the Web. Amazon.com went public last May, floating for \$18 million. It is now worth \$50 million. Barnes and Noble has launched a Web site that is expected to break even in 1999. Borders will venture into cyberspace next year.

Borders and Barnes and Noble both had similar beginnings. Brothers Tom and Louis Borders started in Michigan 25 years ago and 14 years later opened a second branch. After installing chairs, they found customers enjoyed loafing and sales went up. The brothers revolutionised inventory management with com-

puter technology, enabling them to acquire thousands of titles. They grew to five stores and then sold out to K-Mart, a discount retailing conglomerate that launched Borders nationally and let it go public two years ago under its chief executive officer, Bob DiRomualdo.

Leonard Riggio began his bookselling career while attending New York University in the early 1960s. As an assistant in the university bookshop, he was convinced he could do better and opened a competing shop in Greenwich Village.

Mr Riggio had grown to six college bookstores by 1971 when he bought Barnes and Noble on Fifth Avenue, an institution that had fallen into decline. He transformed it into a "world's biggest bookstore" that serves as the model for today's superstores.

Barnes and Noble also owns more than 500 B. Dalton book shops in shopping malls while Borders owns Waldenbooks, another mall retailer with more than 900 shops.

Mr Riggio has declared a goal of 1,100 superstores by 2000 while Borders opens a new branch on average every ten days. The costs of such breakneck growth make for razor-thin earnings, but both chains enjoyed a 15 per cent increase in third-quarter sales compared with a year ago of \$48 million for Borders and \$64 million for Barnes and Noble. Wall Street remains encouraged that the firms have underlying profitability.

Still, some wonder who is buying all these books and how many are sent back under sale-or-return agreements with publishers. Yet Barnes and Noble has found an intriguing trend in readers' tastes.

The company has revealed that so-called bestsellers account for less than 3 per cent of its sales while titles from smaller publishers, independents and university presses continue to grow. Purchases from the top ten publishers have declined to 46 per cent of the total compared with 75 per cent just three years ago, reflecting a wider range of customer interest in lesser-known works of serious fiction and non-fiction than was previously recognised.

According to my calculations the CBI president has eight company directorships, including a handful of chairmanships, which is why there has been a little misunderstanding at Siebe.

Sir Colin is supposed to take over from Barrie Stephens at the helm of the Windsor-based electronics group next year, but Barrie wants to hang up his hat in February and Sir Colin says he will not be free then.

To solve this problem Sir Philip Beck is stepping in as temporary chairman. Not that he has all that much free time. He is already as director of Delta, Railtrack and Kitigawa Europe.

JASON NISSE

## Inaction 2000

RICHARD BRANSON's old mate, Don Cruickshank, is clearly not a man to be hurried. The outgoing Ofcom boss has said that his role as the new head of the Government's Action 2000 will be "raising the tempo" of awareness of the millennium bug. But isn't Cruickshank taking a rather softy approach?

Asked whether Action 2000's web site and telephone hotline would be operational, Cruickshank answered "sometime in the new year", later admitting that Action 2000 was not prepared to answer calls yet. The task

force has yet to finalise its budget for next year and has not even appointed a full-time director (Don will be working only one day a week).

But does this bother Cruickshank?

Not a jot. He hasn't even appointed an acting director and says he thinks a wait of three months is reasonable to find the right person for the role. I assume Action 2000 will be up and running in time for the millennium.

**THIS** will all be music to the ears of those at Railtrack. Cruickshank has threatened to fine utilities which are not making adequate preparations for the millennium bug. But Railtrack tells me it has set up a Rail Millennium Project Office, headed by David Rayner, Railtrack's former head of safety, and funded to the tune of £1.5 million. "That's £500,000 more than the Government has spent," a spokeswoman boasts.

### Mace bonus

A HEART-WARMING tale for Christmas. The three founders of Mace, the construction project manager, are offering their staff up to 15 per cent of the company at cost. According to the chairman, Ian Macpherson, the move is an attempt to preserve the independence of Mace,



which has recently received a number of bid approaches from large builders. But Macpherson, who set up Mace less than eight years ago with two colleagues and has seen it grow from eight staff to 450, is keen to maintain the group's independence for the future. He plans to offer another tranche in 1999 and another three or four years afterwards.

**FULL** marks to Deborah Dore of the Bermuda International Business Association, who, having read of the Geoffrey Robinson affair, contacted us with a glossy brochure on the advantages of setting up trusts in Bermuda. "Bermuda has acquired an exemplary reputation as a discrete and secure jurisdiction for asset pres-

ervation and wealth management," it boasts. I will pass on the brochure when we find out who, indeed, are the trustees of Orton Trust.

### Shopaholics

DAVID JAMES and Philip Green, who spent most of last week haggling over Sears' Shoe Express operation, spent most of yesterday haggling over who worked hardest. Green tells me he was up all night on Tuesday and Thursday, and in at the weekend, while James, who turned 60 earlier this month, says he only managed to get home on Thursday night. "I've not worked so hard since the Danair rescue," James tells me. That does not sound encouraging for Sears.

### So forgetful

I NOTICE an interesting similarity between the advertisement published yesterday on behalf of Dresden RCM Global Investors (the new name for Kleinwort Benson Investment Management), showing a steel forge, and a similar advert run last year by Nabarro Nathanson, the lawyers, also showing a steel forge. Can it be a coincidence that both use the same advertising agency, Crigate Albert Frank?

### Split personality

I TRUST that Sir Colin Marshall is taking a well-earned rest this Christ-

mas. According to my calculations the CBI president has eight company directorships, including a handful of chairmanships, which is why there has been a little misunderstanding at Siebe.

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JASON NISSE



Sir Colin Marshall deserves a well-earned rest this Christmas

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| PAI NAV 10/15             | 95.59                         | 96.71  | + 1.21 | 5.75   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/16             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/17             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/18             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/19             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/20             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/21             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/22             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/23             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/24             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/25             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/26             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/27             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/28             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/29             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/30             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/31             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/32             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/33             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/34             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/35             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/36             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/37             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/38             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/39             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/40             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/41             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/42             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/43             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/44             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/45             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/46             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/47             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/48             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/49             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/50             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/51             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/52             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/53             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/54             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/55             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/56             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/57             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/58             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/59             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/60             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/61             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/62             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/63             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/64             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/65             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/66             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/67             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/68             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/69             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/70             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/71             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/72             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/73             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/74             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/75             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/76             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43   |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |
| PAI NAV 10/77             | 101.41                        | 102.62 | + 1.13 | 0.43</ |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |      |     |       |  |

# Equities end at best of day

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

|                            | High | Low | Company | Price | Yield | PE | High             | Low | Company | Price | Yield | PE | High | Low                 | Company | Price | Yield | PE  |
|----------------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|----|------------------|-----|---------|-------|-------|----|------|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| <b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b> |      |     |         |       |       |    |                  |     |         |       |       |    |      |                     |         |       |       |     |
| 4077 Allied Diamond        | 32   | + 9 | 48      | 127   |       |    | 5252 Amcor       | 14  | + 1     | 14    | 127   |    |      | 6252 Balfour Beatty | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 3552 Amico (P)             | 20   | + 1 | 20      | 119   |       |    | 5253 Barratt     | 13  | + 1     | 13    | 127   |    |      | 6253 Barratt        | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1262 Amoco                 | 14   | + 1 | 14      | 125   |       |    | 5254 Barum       | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6254 Barum          | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 6255 Baxters               | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5256 Baytex      | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6256 Baytex         | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1266 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5257 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6257 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1267 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5258 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6258 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1268 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5259 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6259 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1269 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5260 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6260 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1270 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5261 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6261 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1271 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5262 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6262 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1272 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5263 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6263 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1273 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5264 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6264 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1274 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5265 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6265 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1275 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5266 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6266 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1276 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5267 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6267 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1277 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5268 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6268 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1278 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5269 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6269 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1279 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5270 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6270 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1280 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5271 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6271 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1281 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5272 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6272 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1282 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5273 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6273 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1283 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5274 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6274 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1284 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5275 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6275 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1285 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5276 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6276 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1286 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5277 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6277 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1287 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5278 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6278 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1288 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5279 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6279 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1289 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5280 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6280 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1290 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5281 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6281 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1291 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5282 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6282 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1292 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5283 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6283 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1293 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5284 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6284 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1294 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5285 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6285 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1295 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5286 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6286 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1296 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5287 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6287 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1297 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5288 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6288 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1298 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5289 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6289 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1299 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5290 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6290 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1300 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5291 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6291 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1301 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5292 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6292 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1302 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5293 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6293 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1303 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5294 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6294 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1304 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5295 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6295 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1305 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5296 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6296 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1306 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5297 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6297 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1307 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5298 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6298 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1308 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125   |       |    | 5299 Bell & Bain | 12  | + 1     | 12    | 125   |    |      | 6299 Bell & Bain    | 12      | + 1   | 12    | 121 |
| 1309 Bell & Bain           | 10   | + 1 | 10      | 125</ |       |    |                  |     |         |       |       |    |      |                     |         |       |       |     |

# Masters of a surreal universe

The National Film Theatre is devoting a season to Russian cinema. Carol Allen talks to one of its pioneer directors

**S**ergei Bodrov's film *Prisoner of the Mountains* is a useful illustration of what is happening in Russian cinema today. First there is the story itself, which could not possibly have been made in pre-glasnost days. The first major film to deal with the conflict in Chechnya, it tells of two Russian soldiers captured by a Chechen village elder, who hopes to exchange them for his son, held prisoner by the Russians. It is based on a story written by Tolstoy 150 years ago. As Bodrov says: "Same people, same war, same country."

"For 150 years Russia and Chechnya have had a difficult relationship. I wanted to make a human story. I didn't want to take sides. I never mention in the movie that it's Chechnya but it's clear that I am sceptical about the Russian role in this, and that would have been enough to get it banned in the old days."

The director speaks from experience. A writer for the satirical publication *Krokodil* in the 1970s, when he became an expert at what he terms "writing between the lines", he attempted to do the same thing when he turned to writing screenplays, but found that the directors who shot his films, eager not to fall foul of the censor, were excising the irony and just using the plot lines, turning them into films that were often applauded as popular comedies.

"But I was ashamed," says Bodrov. "I wanted to say something serious and so I wanted to direct." The director's credit was removed from his first film, because it upset the authorities. That was in 1985 when Gorbachev had just come to power, but before the reforms began to bite. Two years later his second, *Non-Professionals*, was initially banned because it mentioned Afghanistan.

The first film overtly to tackle the Afghan war was Vladimir Bortko's *Afghan Breakdown*, which was approved in 1988 but did not reach the screen until early 1992, by which time the Soviet Union had collapsed. Both *Prisoner of the Mountains*, which opens in Britain in February, and *Afghan Breakdown* are featured in the National Film Theatre's current season of contemporary Russian cinema.

A more honest depiction of Russia at war is by no means the only theme to emerge in post-glasnost cinema. As Ian Christie, the compiler of the NFT season, explains:



Sergei Bodrov writes "between the lines"

in the NFT season include Mikhalkov's Oscar-winner *Burnt by the Sun* and *Hammer and Sickle*, an absurdist projection of Stalin's edict: "If the Motherland needs soldiers we'll make soldiers, and if it needs mothers, we'll make them," which involves a sex change from heroine to hero.

Russian cinema, however, faces two practical challenges with which film-makers in the West are all too familiar. Along with the freedom to make the films that they want, the removal of state finance means filmmakers have the problem of raising the money. In the early glasnost days cinema enjoyed something of a boom, with the reduction in state funding being made up partly by the Russian Mafia, which used films to launder money.

But much of the new free cinema failed to appeal to the Russian audience, who once went to the cinema more often than Americans. They started turning to television, where ironically some of the most popular programmes are now old Russian movies. Many cinemas have either fallen into disrepair or have been turned into car showrooms and other commercial enterprises. As in other formerly communist countries, the film-makers who are surviving are having to



A scene from Bodrov's *Prisoner of the Mountains*, the first major film to deal with the conflict in Chechnya, based on a Tolstoy story

learn the business side of film: how to make distribution deals, co-productions deals, video and television sales, and most importantly, keep control of costs.

Bodrov raised the money for *Prisoner of the Mountains* in Kazakhstan, and shot it in neighbouring Dagestan, only two hours' walk from where the fighting was still taking place. He had also by then learnt the importance of listening to his audience, remembering remarks made to him after screenings of *Freedom is Paradise*, his 1989 film about children in reform school, which did much to establish his international reputation.

The audience would say: "We know you're making really good movies, but they're so dark and our lives are so tough now. Remember your old wonderful comedies? We want to laugh, we want another kind of movie." You must understand though, we made those dark movies because we were burning to tell the stories which had been forbidden. When we got this freedom nobody knew for how long it would continue."

*Prisoner of the Mountains*, however, hit a popular emotional nerve in Russia and pulled in the domestic audience. It was also nominated for the best foreign film Oscar last

spring. There is still a dark streak in contemporary Russian cinema, but film-makers are beginning to light up and win back more of their domestic audience. Two comedies chosen by Christie for his season illustrate this.

"Peculiarities of National Hunting" was a huge popular success. It's incredibly funny and was highly controversial, in that even as people went to see it they said: "This portrays us as a nation of hopeless drunks. Should we be laughing at it?"

"There's also *Everything Will Be OK* by a new film-maker, Astra Khan, which is a 'feel-good' social

comedy dealing in a very witty way with the absurdities of the new Russia, such as commercialism."

For Bodrov, who now lives mainly in the United States with his American wife, a whole new world of film-making possibilities has opened up. "I have good stories to make in America, I want to make a movie in China and in India, and some day I will make a movie in Russia again. After all those years of living in an Iron Curtain prison, I'm enjoying my life and the fact that I can work everywhere."

● Russia in the Shadows continues at the NFT, South Bank (071-928 3232) until December 31.

## BRIEFLY NOTED Factory to close?

**OPERA:** One of Britain's most pioneering opera companies, Opera Factory, has told its supporters that its next show will probably be its last. The company, founded 15 years ago by the Australian director David Freeman, loses its Arts Council grant from the 1998-99 season. Its final offering will be a new commission, *And the Snake Sheds Its Skin*, by Habib Faye, presented at the Drill Hall in London in April. But even that production is in doubt: £20,000 towards the staging has yet to be raised.

**GALLERIES:** Ten readers of *The Sun* are to have their portraits of the Royal Family exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery. The show, which opens tomorrow and runs to January 25, displays the winners of a competition organised by the newspaper. More than 200 readers entered, their portraits ranging from oils and watercolours to pencil sketches and embroidery. Peter Grant, a former Butlin's portrait painter, received the £1,000 first prize.

**POP:** Still they rock on. The Rolling Stones keep up the amazing momentum of their "twilight years" with a Wembley Stadium show in front of 72,000 on August 20 next year. Part of their *Bridges to Babylon* world tour, it will be the eleventh time that the Stones have appeared at Wembley Stadium — a record exceeded only by Michael Jackson (15 shows). Also returning to Wembley Stadium next year — for the sixth time — will be Elton John: he plays two *Face to Face* shows with Billy Joel next June.

**THEATRE:** After *Wilde* the movie comes *Wilde* the stage show. A highlight of the Almeida Theatre's spring season will be the world premiere of *The Judas Kiss* by David Hare: a play about Oscar, Bosie... and betrayal. Liam Neeson takes the part of Wilde, and Sir Richard Eyre directs an Almeida show for the first time — although the performances will not be at the Islington theatre but at the Playhouse in the West End. *The Judas Kiss* opens on March 19 for a six-week season, followed by a probable transfer to Broadway.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC: Barry Millington on two London orchestral concerts

**G**idon Kremer recently suggested that there was a tendency to regard Brahms's music as "fat", preferring his own slimmer-down interpretation of the Violin Concerto. James Levine unquestionably adheres to the fat view of Brahms, and the first of his three Festival Hall concerts with the Philharmonia Orchestra was an unashamed celebration of amplitude.

### More than ample

Puritanical as it would be to criticise this approach to Brahms as intrinsically misguided — even in view of all the recent attempts to recapture the kind of sonorities the composer would have imagined — Levine's readings failed to convince even on their own terms. His abiding vice,

tional Beethovenian heroic gestures of the individual pitted against the world were not for her. Rather the soloist, here the Northern Sinfonia's excellent principal clarinettist, Robert Plane, engaged in constructive dialogue with the orchestra, offering it new ideas which are picked up and discussed.

These ideas are graphically and robustly exchanged, however. Burrell has a penchant for pithy instructions in the score, reminiscent of Percy Grainger — "Short and spiky", "Celebratory, Strong" — and the music has a corresponding directness that is most refreshing.

In the slower middle section the soloist introduces a disturbing element with growing multiphonics. The orchestra's response is an adroitly observed evocation of urban life that is enacted on several levels simultaneously.

Maxim Vengerov's approach to the Violin Concerto is neither "fat" nor "thin". Rather he brings it to an irresistible eloquence and lyricism that conquer all. At first it looked as though he would tame Levine's brute force, and indeed there was some sublime playing in the first movement, particularly when Vengerov was "free" to rhapsodise. As a whole, however, the movement failed to convince because it was simply structurally unsound. If it is made to sound like a succession of beautiful moments with no linking thread, the composer has not been well served.

A very slow tempo for the Adagio is sustainable provided the orchestral accompaniment does not give the impression of treading water. That impression was not always avoided here, but the divinely inspired singing quality of Vengerov's tone carried the day, as did his virtuous brilliance in the gypsy finale.

Introducing her Clarinet Concerto, receiving its London premiere at the Barbican on Thursday, Diana Burrell made it clear that the tradi-

## POP: Highlights of a world music weekend. Plus pop-folk for the faithful

### Clashing cultural symbols

**Womad** weekend can often remind one of John Masefield's poem

**Womad** weekend  
Spirit  
Barbican

*Cargoes* — a global shipment of emeralds and amethysts, topazes and gold moidores of the musical variety, and plenty of "firewood, ironware and cheap tin trays" on sale at the myriad stalls on the fringe.

There was no "quincunx" but, from strident Mogadishu, after a seven-month walk across the Horn of Africa with her five children to escape the recent civil war in Somalia, came Maryam

Mursal and her band Weaberl. Timeless and passionate, their powerful chants and acoustic rhythms drew on centuries of cross-fertilisation between nomadic African and Arabic tribes.

On the free stage in the foyer Justin Valli from Madagascar performed thrilling melodies

**Dulled by polish**

CONSIDERING that they last played five years ago, and that this tour had already been postponed twice, it was amazing that so many devotees still turned up to catch ethereal pop-folk group the Sundays in Islington on Thursday night. But several hundred of the faithful dutifully packed out the pews of London's most atmospheric music venue.

Not that the band delivered a flawless set. It was just such a rare treat to hear Harriet Wheeler's extravagantly beautiful singing voice in public after so lengthy a hiatus. Wheeler and her partner guitarist David Gavorin form the creative nucleus of the Sundays, although their live line-up incorporates three extra musicians to beef up their floaty, shimmering sound.

The first number was a graceless and leaden reading of the band's formerly fleet-footed breakthrough single from 1989, *Can't Be Sure*.

Indeed, for much of the set clattering drums and intrusive guitars drowned Wheeler's sublimely elegant warble. The best tunes featured just a skimming acoustic guitar or sparing instrumentation.

Tellingly, these tunes and most of the other highlights date back to the band's mar-

### Star's turn

YOU know you are in the presence of royalty when the opening applause is prompted, not by the entrance of the star herself, but by the arrival of the head of her fan club, Cilla Davis, writes: When Nini Simone arrived on stage at the end of the Global Spirit festival, she could have won a standing ovation simply by slipping out of her extravagant fur coat.

The music did not entirely live up to the grandiose preliminaries, but there is no point expecting mere consistency from Simone's concerts. Trying to deliver an objective assessment is made more difficult by the sycophantic response of her audience. She played shamelessly to them at times, at one point veering into an over-ripe, up-tempo arrangement of *My Way*. Yet such is the force of her personality that the song ultimately came across as a bold statement of fact.

Although she did not look in the best of health, the good news was that she seemed in unusually good spirits, trading banter and, at the close, encouraging a sing-along on *My Baby Just Cares For Me*. There is no denying, though, that her singing has lost much of its lustre. Amid the whoops of delight from the stalls, it was almost distressing to hear her negotiating the melody of *I Loves You Porgy*. Only the shadow of the voice was left, yet it was still a strangely compelling experience.

The programme moved at its own idiosyncratic pace, an initial sequence of gospel numbers, including *If You Pray Right*, giving way to a halting version of *Here Comes the Sun*. An entirely redundant drum and percussion duel gave her an opportunity to slip backstage before she returned with the coy lyrics of *Sugar in My Bowl* and a reading of *Baltimore* that smuggled in a reggae beat halfway through.

**The Sundays:**  
Union Chapel, N1



The Sundays: great voice, shame about the sparkle

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STEPHEN DALTON  
NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Factor  
to close

# But the spirit is weak

**A**fter the sensational success of the novel that gave him his nickname, M.G. "Monk" Lewis turned to the stage and in 1797 enjoyed an equivalent triumph with this Gothic melodrama of a bold bad earl, an elder brother chained for 16 years to a dungeon wall, a valiant maid and her high-falutin lover. The first audiences thrilled to

## The Castle Spectre Warehouse, Croydon

the scenic effects, the ghosts real and pretended, the last-minute rescues and abrupt reversals of fortune.

Later the play became an entertainment where audiences could feel superior to the tastes of their grandparents, so much so that a critic could write of an 1880 revival that "people dislocated many of the stalls with their mirth".

In its bicentenary year two London companies have blown the dust off this ancient piece. At the Rose and Crown, Hampton Wick, the Comyns Carr Theatre Company appears to be playing it fairly straight, which cannot be said of Phil Willmott's version at the Warehouse in East Croydon, where much of the old baby was thrown out when the new bathwater was thrown in.

The fragments of the original that I have read seem sturdy enough, but I guess that other passages are neither intentionally nor accidentally funny enough to hold the stage today. Lewis himself introduced comic servants into his story, but for him they functioned as foils to their broadminded wicked master. By employing them the Earl of



Martyn Stanbridge, Mali Harries and Damien Goodwin in the underwhelming Gothic melodrama, *The Castle Spectre*

Conway scored no points for common sense, but at Croydon, where his household is seriously understaffed for a man of fabulous wealth, his fondness for sharing details of his plots with two untrustworthy servants makes him look perfectly fit-headed.

Listening to the characters slide from the high-sounding and sententious style of Lewis,

shockful of meaty adjectives, to Willmott's simpler rhetoric is depressing, even before they take the next step and descend to *Carry On Spectre*. Love potions drunk by a servant who then starts kissing his master, disabling blows to the male groin — these are such obvious ways of spoofing for laughter and, since they have become the house style for

Christmas shows at this venue, I suppose it means that Ted Craig knows his audience. We are offered a thinish comedy that sends up the postures of melodrama but does not give us the frissons of scenic horror. Nor, with only one woman in the cast, can it show us virtuous, valiant Angela (Mali Harries) and the ghost of her murdered mother

at one and the same time, so that goes the blood-spattered climax.

Among some stiff, padding acting Damien Goodwin brings a touch of relish to the blundering lover, and Martyn Stanbridge is a handsome villain in black velvet. They deserve a better melodrama.

JEREMY KINGSTON

For *Buskin'* to have been a better musical, such a raw statement of plot should have been simply a starting point, a signpost to where the evening's pleasures originate. In *Buskin'*, it is almost all there is.

What *Buskin'* lacks is any sense of something being basked. It sticks rigidly to its own familiar formulas, avoiding the unorthodox as though it might constitute dramatic weakness.

The evening consequently falls short on fun. What pleasure there is comes mainly from Monnaie's Old Nick, an engaging rogue with the best tune of the evening, the Dixie-flavoured *Old Devil Blues*. As the busker, McCormack spends rather too much time delivering ballads to have any chance of building a character. Neither Smith nor McLoughlin fares much better.

Nobody is really helped by the design of the show, which is full of distracting inconsistencies. The decision to style the devil and his entourage as 1930s gangsters and then have them perform a rap number is one aspect of the production which does not seem to have been fully thought through. As with much of *Buskin'*, it is hard to believe that some fresher solutions could not have been found to some old, old problems.

LUKE CLANCY

## Devil gets the best tune

### Buskin'

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

By JEREMY KINGSTON

IF WE learn anything from the story of Faust, it is that things that look too good to be true often are. Amid the usual Mother Gooses, Aladdins and Sirbids, the appearance of a musical based on the legend could have offered some welcome seasonal substance.

Brian O'Reilly's *Buskin'* is not, however, the sort to grapple too long or too hard with questions of sin, redemption or immortality. For his telling of the story, O'Reilly recasts the devil as a shady Mafioso impresario (Garry Montaine) who offers a fast track to *Top of the Pops* to a naive busker (Gavin McCormack). Somewhere back home there is a girlfriend (Ursula McLoughlin) who may yet save the weeping busker from his fate, while in the big city an evil temptress (Rebecca Smith) enlists on Satan's side. Outside this basic line-up, characters quickly slip over the event horizon.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## Carry on therapy

### Think No Evil

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

By JAMES CHRISTOPHER

THERE is something deeply peculiar about a man who makes a career out of impersonating Kenneth Williams. It's a bit like building your own pier to sink at the end of it. David Benson is the man with this obsession. Crowdning a black corner of the Lyric Studio with just a chair and a spotlight, he adopts a nasal twang, sticks in his cheeks, clenches a phantom lemon between his buttocks, and rolls his eyeballs as if infected with BSE.

"Ooh, my mother loves a bit of tongue," Benson intones smugly, nodding his head, wrinkling his nose and arching his eyebrows. The audience laughs. It's a faultless piece of mimicry. "Your thighs will be ablaze," he says in mock concern to a strapping labourer in danger of sunburn. As the innuendos pile up, so does the image of Williams as a peevish short-tempered man who gives two fingers

to autograph hunters and American tourists. Benson paints a man beloved of millions but in reality an ailing loner who couldn't love himself.

The starting point of this strange fascination is that in 1975, aged 13, Benson wrote a story that was chosen and read out by Williams on *Jackanory*. That seems to have been enough to turn his head permanently. As with all obsessions, Benson turns out to be more interested in himself than in the off-screen persona of Williams. Neither of their lives makes pleasant viewing. The flow of innuendo dribbling from the *Carry On* star becomes oppressive and boring. When Benson drops his impersonation to talk about himself we hear of a childhood disturbed by a clinically insane mother "who the whole family wanted to murder". Self-deprecating stories of jolly school showers and puberty fail to hide Benson's awkward adolescence and fear of being gay.

His desire to hang out his laundry with Williams seems entirely to do with self-worth rather than entertainment. While Williams never quite found self-love, Benson has discovered plenty doing this show. My main criticism is that he doesn't make his therapy nearly entertaining enough.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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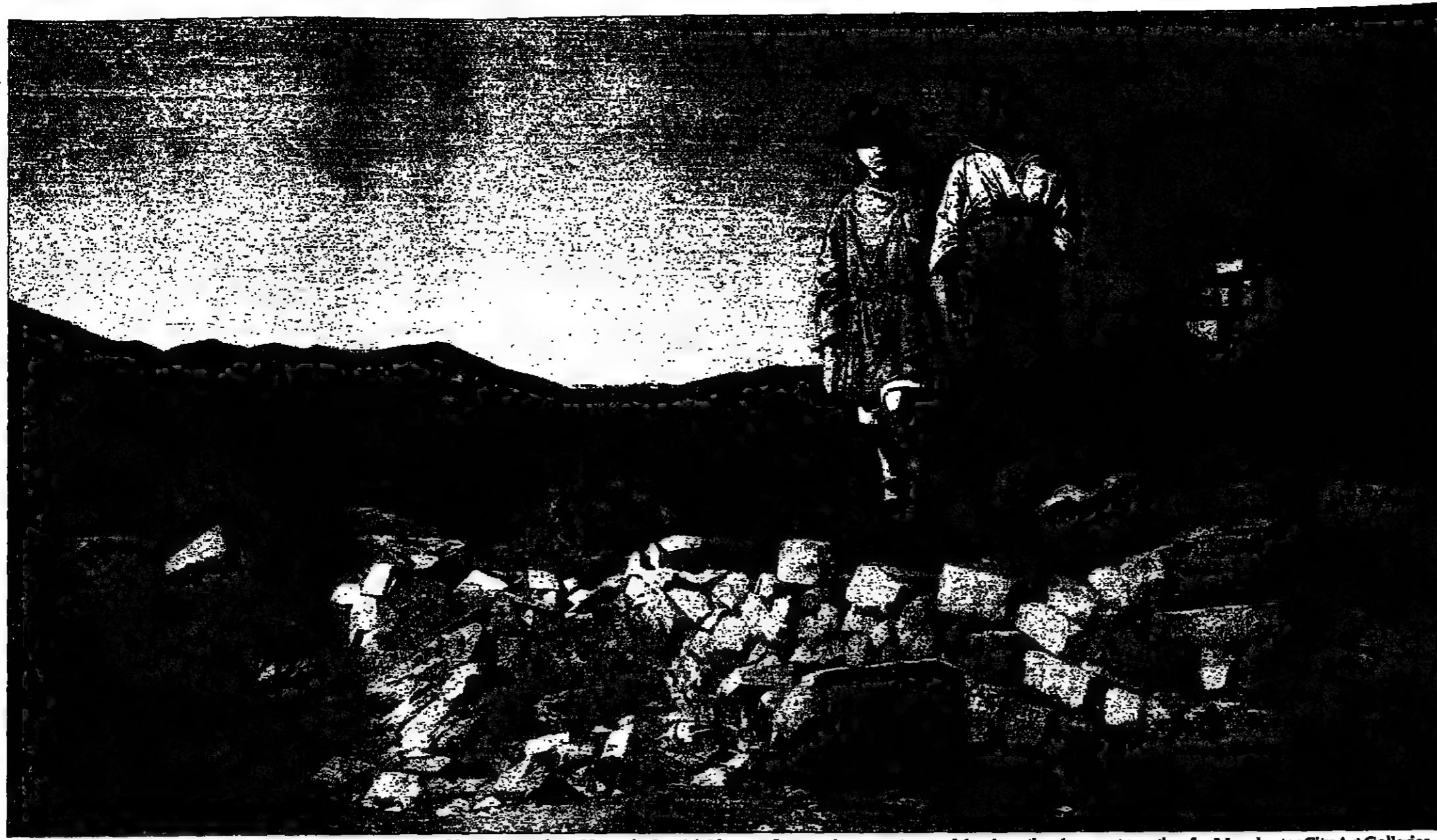
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Jane Benham Hay's *England and Italy* (1859), rediscovered by Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn to form an important part of the show they have put together for Manchester City Art Galleries

## Respect for a spurned sisterhood

**Richard Cork** on Manchester's admirable attempt to give Pre-Raphaelite women artists their due

In the blinkered view of its founding members, the Pre-Raphaelite movement had no room for women artists. The young rebels who banded together in 1848 were all male, and underlined their gender by calling themselves a brotherhood. They may have worshipped women obsessively, but Pre-Raphaelite men were less enthusiastic if the female muse wanted to become a practitioner.

This reluctance to acknowledge any female contribution has distorted our understanding of the Pre-Raphaelite achievement. When the Tate Gallery mounted its hugely popular survey of the movement in 1984, only one woman was included: the magically short-lived Elizabeth Siddal. And her three small works were overshadowed by the fact that she married Dante Gabriel Rossetti and served as a blighted model for paintings as celebrated as Millais' *Ophelia*. Even today, we know Siddal best as the listless, doomed figure singing as she drowns in the flower-strewn brook. Like so many women in Pre-Raphaelite pictures, she enacts the role of the passive, infinitely desired and yet unattainable victim. It is an irritating stereotype, ripe for revision.

Giles Whittell visits Los Angeles's new Getty Centre, which opens today

And now, on the eve of the movement's 150th anniversary, Manchester City Art Galleries has produced a timely corrective. No fewer than 20 Pre-Raphaelite women artists are brought together, represented for the most part by images never publicly displayed during the present century.

The show's zealous organisers, Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn, have made some remarkable discoveries. The most unexpected is a painting called *England and Italy* by Jane Benham Hay, an ironmonger's daughter who won considerable success at Royal Academy exhibitions. Like so many of the women on view here, she was soon forgotten. Nobody knew where or when she died. But it was probably in Italy, the country she settled in after espousing the cause of Italian independence.

This is the theme of the newly found canvas, missing ever since it was first displayed at the Academy in 1859. Painted only a year before Garibaldi was installed in Italy as the hero of unification, it shows two boys standing together in the Val d'Arno. One, blond and English, rests a hand on the shoulder of his dark-haired Italian companion. The placid elegance of the

well-dressed English boy is contrasted with the frowning restlessness of his barefoot friend. And the heap of stones and earth in front of them may be intended to reflect Italy's fragmented, perilous state. But it is not a doggedly symbolic picture. Benham Hay handles the sunlit landscape with a realist's precision, and her sympathetic portrayal of the boys deserves to be ranked with Winslow Homer's paintings of children in rural America.

Benham Hay and her equally progressive friends, Anna Mary Howitt and Barbara Leigh Smith, were determined to help each other to attain the independence enjoyed by men. "What schemes of life have we not worked out whilst we have been together!" exclaimed Howitt, describing the three women as "the germ of a beautiful sisterhood in Art, of which we have all dreamed long".

Their task was far from easy. The strength of their feminist convictions was pitted, not only against patronising masculine prejudice in general, but the obstacles thrown up by art

education in particular. Female students were steered towards embroidery and illustration by teachers who assumed that the decorative arts were appropriate for young women destined to marry and look after children.

cised by the influential John Ruskin, she suffered a mental breakdown. After destroying her work and jettisoning all hope of further esteem, Howitt henceforth devoted herself to spiritualism. Only a sensitive pencil drawing of Elizabeth Siddal, wearing iris flowers in her hair, represents Howitt's lost oeuvre in this survey.

But Leigh Smith, the other "sister", has four exhibits, and her unusually large watercolour panorama of Ventnor on the Isle of Wight is outstanding. She approaches the coastal scene with the same realist hunger that Benham Hay displayed in England and Italy. The Ventnor picture, however, carries a far greater freight of detail. Like all the finest Pre-Raphaelite landscapes, it has an almost microscopic intensity, and yet the overall luminosity of the limpid sea and sky is evoked without a trace of pedantic excess.

Leigh Smith was a doughty campaigner for women's rights. She played a major role in the Langham Place Group, which fought for suffrage and brought about the founding of Girton College in Cambridge.

Similar views were advanced by other female Pre-Raphaelites, some of whom were drawn to the movement's interest in art based on contemporary issues.

Anna Blunden, whose Corinthian watercolour of Polperro Beach near the Lizard has a near-hallucinatory, hairsbreadth clarity, was committed to social reform. Her painting of a seamstress staring from a sweatshop window was inspired by Thomas Hood's polemic poem *The Song of the Shirt*.

Cruder than the Polperro watercolour, its uncertain command of figure painting reflects the fact that Blunden was self-taught as an artist.

But the image of a woman isolated in a room proves the more powerful motif in the exhibition. Marianne Stokes, an Austrian who married a British painter and settled in St Ives, produced an impressive canvas called *St Elizabeth of Hungary Spinning for the Poor*. Unlike Blunden's seamstress, but like her, she belongs to the past. The style suggests the influence of Rogier van der Weyden, but the 15th-century precision is matched by a late 19th-century feeling for simplification in a shallow space.

At first glance, the lone figure of *Melody (Musica)* painted by Kate Buncle seems

more sensual and festive. Plucking a lute-like instrument, she gazes out in our direction with bold, direct eyes. A dramatic mane of ebony hair increases the sense of brazen confrontation.

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more sensual and festive. Plucking a lute-like instrument, she gazes out in our direction with bold, direct eyes. A dramatic mane of ebony hair increases the sense of brazen confrontation.

The paintings have a wilful strangeness; in fact they are almost too strange, as if the invention of subject has outpaced any invention with paint. The heightened realist nature of this plastic imagery seems so tightly sealed as to hold still the breath of imagination.

*Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, The Oval, London SE11 (0171-735 3445) until Jan 4*

**Rineke Dijkstra** photographs free-standing figures in a straightforward and sympathetic manner. Her complicity with young people sets up a relationship, in turn, with the viewer. Her video work follows the same principle, this time to a synchronised beat. Dancers in clubs in Holland and England gyrate to music before a white wall. People dance alone, a bare-chested girl moves in perfect time to the beat.

The individual large colour photographs show people alone, beside the sea, the horizon line coming to just below the torso; vulnerable thin adolescents held in damp and awkward swimming costumes against the sky.

*Photographers' Gallery, 51 Gt Newport St, London WC2 (0171-831 1772) until Jan 10*

**SACHA CRADDOCK**

of the Getty's collection. It also gives the world a new perspective on America's most baffling city.

The first hint of genius is a high-tech tram that takes visitors up a long slope from an underground car park to another vast expanse of marble leading to the museum's foyer. Richard Meier, who designed it all, calls the tram a "decompression zone". Here, a rare piece of compulsory public transport brings blissful relief from the noise and smog, and reminds you that it is worth slowing down for art.

"This is just how the future was supposed to be," Kurt Andersen wrote in *The New Yorker*.

"Meier's highly classicised modernism is like a *Star Trek* episode about Periclean

Athenians." Indeed, the Getty is a place of Roman stone opposite aluminium-clad research institutes. It has rustic grottos next to multimedia information stations.

Great pains have been taken

not to let visitors get lost here

in the bowels of another Louvre. No gallery is more

than one remove from fresh air and a place to sit. Even so,

the Getty is its own created

world, and nowhere more so

than in the Great Hall. Here

parquet floors, stucco mouldings and rich fabrics are used to give the museum's unmatched haul of 18th-century decorative art an authentic setting.

John Walsh, the museum's

suave Bostonian director,

is clearly a triumph. To

show off the Getty's masterpieces in the natural light in which contemporaries saw them, he has put high, sloping roofs over traditional oblong viewing areas, capping the design with computer-controlled slats under enormous skylights. As the sun moves,

the slats follow. Curators last

week claimed this pale, diffuse light brings paintings alive as if expensively restored.

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## LAW

- ENDING EVIL 37
- LAW REPORT 38

The appointment of a new First Junior Treasury Counsel, Common Law (the "Treasury Devil" or "Treasury Junior") does not normally receive much publicity. The Attorney-General's decision last month to appoint Philip Sales as successor to Stephen Richards (who has been made a High Court judge) attracts press attention because Mr Sales, primarily a commercial lawyer, is a member of the former chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. The Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, explained that Mr Sales was simply the best lawyer for the job.

It is one of the most important, and difficult, jobs in the legal system. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister affixed by what most of us go to the Bar to avoid: being answerable to one client. He is

## Those given the devil of a job to do

briefed and paid (though not generously) for each advice to, or court appearance on behalf of, government departments. In theory, he is the "Attorney-General's Devil": the junior who researches what the Law Officers need to know. In practice, because the Law Officers are too busy to appear in court, the Treasury Junior has the vital task, as an independent outsider with access to senior civil servants and ministers, of assisting the Crown to comply with the law.

The Treasury Devil need not be an experienced administrative lawyer. In his Hamlyn Lectures of 1990, Lord Woolf recalled that on his appointment as Treasury Junior in 1974, such was his "ignorance

of public law" that he needed to ask his predecessor, Gordon Slynn, what textbooks he should read. The appointment of good lawyers, whatever their previous area of expertise, ensures that the Treasury Devil normally has the best times in court.

The importance of the post makes it inconceivable that any government would today follow the example of Sir Robert Finlay who, as Attorney-General in 1905, appointed his son, a junior barrister with four years' experience, to be junior counsel to the Inland Revenue Commissioners. Finlay's decision was much criticised, and his position further undermined when, soon after, he was a passenger in the car

of Sir William Anson, Warden of All Souls, who was stopped and successfully prosecuted for speeding.

The growth in public law litigation and the consequent burdens of the job make it impossible for the modern Treasury Devil to follow the example of Sir Valentine Holmes, appointed to the post in 1935. *The Dictionary of National Biography* records that he performed the task "without any abatement of his private practice" as a libel specialist. Today, the Treasury Junior needs the assistance of a panel of barristers who act for the Crown part-time as and when required.

It is hard work endeavouring to explain to courts, on a

daily basis, the reasoning of government departments. As Sir John Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, stated in his judgment in an immigration case in 1982, "the impartial observer asks Mr Simon Brown to explain how paragraph 70 of the rules is intended to operate, and Mr Brown says that he will have to take instructions".

Early in the 19th century, Charles Abbott was a Treasury Devil described by Campbell in his *Lives of the Chief Justices* as having "the most marvelous inaptitude for the functions of an advocate". He almost always lost his cases, partly because of his power of discrimination and soundness of understanding", which enabled him to appreciate the merits of the case on both

"and I made a note of it at the time", that if the court intervened, "it would not be long before the powers of the court would be called in question". Lord Denning commented that he was prepared to accept that this was "not said seriously, but only a piece of advocate's licence".

Lord Woolf has written on the difficulties representing the Crown when Lord Denning was rewriting the law books and "setting about government departments with an irrepressible enthusiasm". Diplomacy is required. In a 1975 judgment, Lord Denning criticised Crown counsel, Roger Parker, QC, for submitting,



COUNSEL  
DAVID  
PANNICK QC

sides, and "afterwards fitted him so well for being a judge".

The example of Abbott serves to remind the legal profession of what has been

well understood and acted upon by recent holders of the office. All advocates have to reconcile their duties to their client with their duties to the court, and with their conscience. The Treasury Junior has a specific responsibility, as important in the age of the contingency fee as ever, to remind the Government that there are steps it cannot take, however large its parliamentary majority, and that there are occasions when it should accept legal defeat.

For the past six years, Stephen Richards has maintained the values and the independence of his office while serving a Conservative government which was not always eager to listen to legal advice. All members of the Bar will wish Mr Sales well as his successor.

• The author is a practising barrister and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Experts have been debating juries' ability to understand fraud cases and whether to look at how they reach verdicts. Frances Gibb reports

## Should we take a peek inside the jurors' room?

Juries are on trial. Ministers want to look again at whether juries should be scrapped for complex fraud cases. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, defends the jury system. But there is a case, he says, for re-examining trial by jury in complex fraud cases.

The alternative, proposed by Lord Roskill in his committee's report on fraud in 1986, suggested that such cases would be better tried by a judge, perhaps sitting with two specialist assessors. The proposal did not find favour, but the acquittal of the Maxwell brothers reopened the debate.

Last week 250 judges, lawyers, police and government officials met to discuss the issue at a seminar chaired by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and organised by the British Academy of Forensic Sciences with sponsorship from the Criminal Bar and Administrative Law Bar Associations, and the Law Society.

Lord Bingham has expressed his own views on the subject. He told a press conference last year that the jury "is

and always has been regarded as one of the great safety valves that prevents the State from behaving in an oppressive way". But he added that he had favoured Lord Roskill's proposal for fraud trials, although he believed that the public was still unlikely to support it. Lord Bingham also agreed with lifting the lid a little on how juries do their work through "serious, objective and anonymous research".

The question of whether there should be jury research — banned under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981 — is linked to that of whether to keep juries for complex fraud. Until it is known how they operate, and whether they find such trials difficult, it is argued that no case can be made for their abolition. The fears of many were voiced by David Calvert-Smith, QC, who said research would "just be ammunition for those who want to get rid of juries".

Clear battle lines have al-

**Many say**  
research  
would be  
the death  
of jury  
trial

ready been drawn. Roy Amlot, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, made a passionate defence in his paper for juries to remain. Trials by judge, or with assessors, might be more efficient, but would not be cheaper or quicker. They would always be pressed "by insistence or flattery" into thinking they could cope with all the issues.

The change, he added, would be a "fundamental mistake". Complexity was no justification for removing juries from certain cases. "All complex issues can be made simple... That is the task of the judge and advocate."

There was also a danger that under trial by judge, with or without assessors, the public might not have confidence in the outcome.

If an influential or political person was on trial, the panel might acquit, and rightly so.

"But is it ever going to be accepted by the public at large? I cannot think of a more devastating way of undermining

the appearance of justice." Other jury supporters argued that research would kill trial. Sir John Smith, Nottingham University's Emeritus Professor of Law, believed that secrecy was essential to preserving the jury as an institution. Perhaps it was a case where ignorance was bliss. He said: "I recognise that it is highly desirable that we should know whether these assumptions [about jury behaviour] are well founded or not. But I fear that there is a price to be paid, namely the revelation that many cases are decided in consequence of material irregularities in the jury room, with consequent undermining of public confidence in jury trial."

If we are to keep such trials, and if there is an overwhelming sentiment in favour of doing so, it is perhaps better not to know."

But there was also a strong view, Anthony Heston-Armstrong, the organiser, says, that jury research could be done without destroying the institution of the jury itself. Michael Zander, QC, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, and a fervent believer

Jurors hear a lawyer present his client's case in a scene from *Verdict*, a BBC programme about the jury system

in juries, says that while such research would have to be conducted with extreme care, it could be done.

One approach would be to monitor the deliberations on audio-recording, supplemented by interviews or questionnaires. Professor Zander said that such research, including

an inquiry into the impact of media publicity on juries, is going on in New Zealand.

The findings of jury research would not vindicate every verdict. There would certainly be cases where the jury had for some reason "got it wrong", in the sense that the verdict ran against the weight of the evidence or they decided "out of prejudice or stupidity." But the jury system could withstand that. In 1981, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, later Lord Chancellor, said: "The jury system, great institution that it is, surely can stand up to properly conducted research."

Marylebone, another Lord Chancellor, took the same view.

Jury research would need legislation. But it might be an acceptable first step before dismantling juries for complex fraud cases when the evidence has not fully been heard.

## Helping Lord Irvine

GARRY HART is making a large financial sacrifice to help out his old friend Lord Irvine of Lairg as a special adviser in the Lord Chancellor's Department on a salary of £73,000.

But when he quits his post as a senior partner with Herbert Smith, his family will not be plunged into penury — his second wife, Valerie Davies, is a big earner in her role as head of Norton Rose's insolvency litigation department.

**We want our fees**  
COMPETITION between the Bar and solicitors is hotting up. Angry young barristers are accusing solicitors of "cynically exploiting" their junior status by deliberately holding back payments for advocacy work in magistrates' courts.

The Bar Council's young barristers' committee has told the Bar Council that fees are being paid slowly, if at all, by "a number of firms".

What's more, the committee has complained that some chambers are reluctant to pursue fees owed to their younger tenants for fear that the guilty firms will retaliate by ceasing to give their better work to the more senior tenants in the chambers.

The Bar Council has posted a warning in its newsletter

**Altogether, aaah**  
A NEW trend among law firms this year: they are abandoning Christmas cards.

Nicholas Graham & Jones have decided to put the money instead into Crisis at Christmas, and has organised a programme of activities to help the charity for the homeless, including a rota of helpers to work on the conversion of a warehouse into a



Lester: human rights award

Christmas shelter. Another firm, Berwin Leighton is donating its Christmas card account to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, where it will be spent on special trolleys to move children.

And judges last week mixed with court staff and civil servants for a special carol concert organised by Allen & Overy at the Royal Courts of Justice to raise money for the Citizens Advice Bureau based in the building. About £500 was collected, and pledges have yet to come in.

**Rights winners**  
LORD LESTER of Herne Hill, QC, was last week announced Human Rights Lawyer of 1997. The award, organised by Liberty in association with the *Law Society Gazette*, was made to Lord Lester for his role in pressing for human rights legislation — an ambition realised this year with the Human Rights Bill.

A second honour, the Human Rights Award, went to Stonewall, the gay and lesbian pressure group, for advances in rights for homosexuals.

**Netting business**  
A LAWYER is setting up his own internet law practice.

Richard Kemp, a specialist in information technology and intellectual property law, has set up Kemp & Co to "capitalise on the huge growth in demand for tailored advice on computer-related, information and communications law".

**SCRIVENOR**  
STEUART & FRANCIS

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

### CHAMBERS

BANKING & FINANCE 23 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171 606 8844 FAX: 0171 400 7733

### Happy Christmas

#### European Investment Bank

to £80,000

Exponential expansion through acquisition, organic growth and a highly focused business strategy have been key to the success of this European investment house.

The legal department now requires a senior lawyer (5 years+ ppc) to manage a small team. Suitable candidates will have experience of a range of secondary market products, including derivative and repo documentation, gained in private practice or another bank. Proven management skills or at least an aptitude would clearly be an advantage. Quality of life is a respected concept in this exceptionally well run department.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Kirkman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

#### Investment Management

E Excellent package

Our client is a premier investment management group whose interests encompass investment trusts, unit trusts and offshore funds.

Due to a marked increase in business, the legal department has a requirement for a junior lawyer (1-2 years ppc). The role will have two aspects. First as a specialist advising on a range of funds and specific products across all institutional and retail investment management areas. Secondly as a generalist advising on company/commercial issues as they affect the group. Prior exposure to investment management issues would, of course, be advantageous.

Christmas is a natural 'pause' to contemplate the direction your career will take in the New Year. Is partnership really what you aspire to? Are there more interesting and fulfilling roles in-house? Should you look at the options available to you? More often than not candidates are surprised by the variety of opportunities which exist in banking/finance. If you would welcome the chance to talk to us on a fact finding basis we will be delighted to give you constructive career advice.

### CLYDE & CO

AN INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

Clyde & Co is an international law firm with particular strengths in insurance, shipping and international trade. The firm serves clients worldwide, in over 90 countries.

We now seek a US attorney to join one of our London insurance groups. Experience of US non-marine defendant insurance litigation is essential and a knowledge of reinsurance matters is a distinct advantage. The successful candidate will ideally be admitted to practise in more than one US state and will have 1-2 years' relevant experience.

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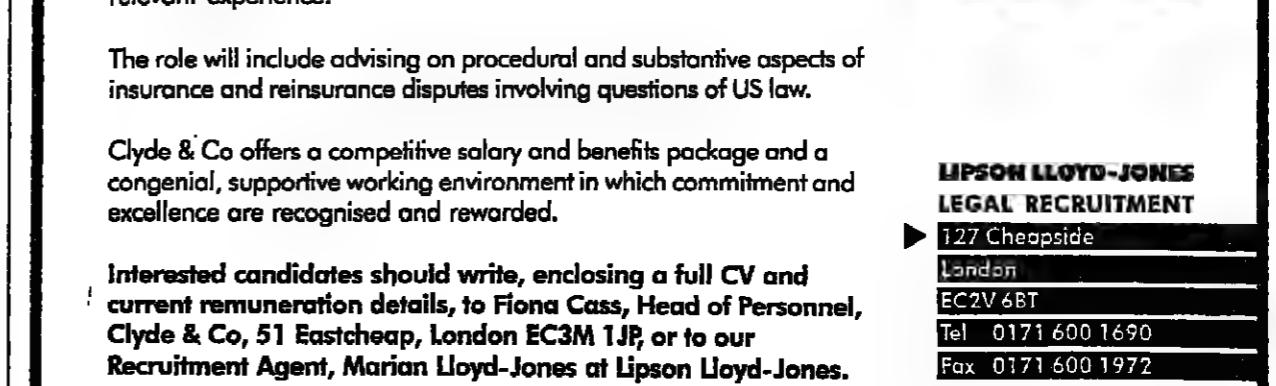
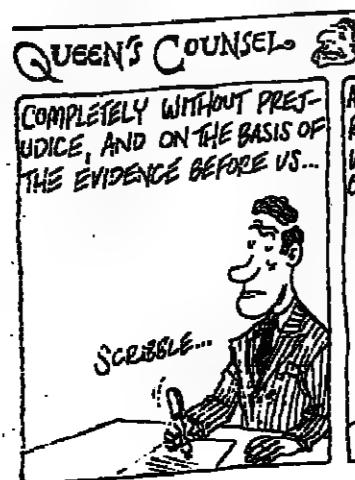
Clyde & Co offers a competitive salary and benefits package and a congenial, supportive working environment in which commitment and excellence are recognised and rewarded.

Interested candidates should write, enclosing a full CV and current remuneration details, to Fiona Cass, Head of Personnel, Clyde & Co, 51 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1JP, or to our Recruitment Agent, Marian Lloyd-Jones at Lipson Lloyd-Jones.

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## PRIVATE PRACTICE & IN-HOUSE FINANCE

### LITIGATION - HK

Leading Hong Kong contentious practice in pre-trial international firm seeks 2-3 year litigator for high court and arbitration. You will be a solicitor from a top City litigation group or a barrister from leading commercial chambers with an interest in construction, insurance, shipping, regulatory disputes and/or China. Languages are useful but not essential. A fantastic opportunity to see the Far East and obtain top quality experience. Ref:21491

### M&A - BANK

Pre-eminent City banking house with prestigious corporate clients seeks a 4 year plus mergers and acquisitions lawyer to support the dynamic and top driven commercial arm of their business. As an outstanding opening to join an undoubted market leader you will require excellent technical skills, well developed commercial sensitivity and the ability to communicate complex issues clearly to senior management and clients. Ref:21189

### IN-HOUSE BANKING

US investment bank web-pre-emptive representation needs lawyer with between 3 and 6 years' finance experience for a team of lawyers and bankers. Remuneration will be exceptional with the usual banking benefits. A proactive and commercial approach is essential. Ref:21183

### CORPORATE

One of the City's most profitable medium-sized law firms, committed to attracting and retaining lawyers of the highest calibre, seeks 3-4 year corporate finance and commercial specialists. Direct client responsibility and close involvement with business decisions, as well as devoting legal scholars are actively encouraged. Clear openings in the group and continued growth mean career progression prospects are genuine. Ref:21316

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact Andy Golding or Yvonne Smyth (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 2838 (0171-866670 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Owens or Yasmine Phillips on 0171-523 3822 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail andy@zmb.co.uk

## DERIVATIVES/CAP MARKETS

**TO £100,000+BIENS**

International finance house seeks general capital markets or derivatives lawyers at all levels to handle a wide range of products. Working closely in integrated teams with bankers, this is an ideal opportunity for a generalist looking to specialize or a specialist who wants greater involvement in a robust and global front office team. Ref:21216

### INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

### EQUITY RATES

Leading projects firm with an excellent network of offices across the US/Europe seeks additional lawyers for its London operation. With high value projects of increasing scale and complexity, further support is required and assistance will be given to remunerating. You must be considered as a future director of a quality environment where your contribution counts. Ref:21259

### INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY

### TO £50,000

Leading international firm whose progress is fuelled by its peers, seek high achieving insolvency lawyers with up to 4 years' experience to work in a cohesive and fully integrated banking department. This is an international role requiring involvement in major, complex corporate restructurings stretching around the globe. Ref:21260

### EMPLOYMENT

### TO £42,000

Employment team at progressive London practice is gaining momentum market share. Offering expertise in contentious and non-contentious areas, the team has been involved in very high profile matters and the steady flow of new instructions has created the need for an additional lawyer, one with 2-3 year level and possibly another at NC level. You will be involved in a variety of contentious and non-contentious employment cases. Ref:21261

### DIG FEB/MAR 98 - WHERE NEXT?

### EQUITY RATES

Qualifying next Spring and feeling uncertain about your future? Come talk to us confidentially about the many openings for NCs at top firms in all areas, particularly banking, corporate, IT, tax and property. Take advantage of our insight into the culture, client base and working environments at different firms to help you make the right decision at this vital juncture in your career. Ref:21262

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## OPEN YOUR EYES

### PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

### To £40,000

If you want to be an insurance lawyer, this is the place to do it. As well as being one of the most progressive firms in the City, this well-known mid-size firm has an outstanding insurance team and is looking for professional indemnity lawyers with 2-3 years' post to work on behalf of Lloyd's. Ref: T2525

### PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

### To £Various

Join the growing ranks of lawyers who choose to take a back seat while still enjoying City life and pay as a professional support lawyer at the top 10 firm. If you have 2+ years' post in banking and capital markets, pensions and employment, corporate finance, or projects, this could be perfect. Ref: T22442

### CORPORATE INSURANCE

### To £Partnership

The London office of this leading national firm is the place to come if you want to make partner; as it is actively on the lookout for insurance lawyers with partnership potential. You will have 3+ years' post and experience of corporate finance and insurance work, ideally with Lloyd's. Ref: T35441

### CORPORATE

### Moscow To £Partnership

If you feel your career is going into a rut, then this is the kind of move that could reignite you. This very high-profile international legal practice will offer a senior corporate lawyer very real to head its corporate practice in the fascinating city of Moscow. Foreign qualified welcome. Ref: T34699

### CORPORATE

### To £60,000

You will immediately take responsibility for some very high quality corporate work at the London office of this top Scottish firm, which is becoming renowned for its involvement in many high-profile matters. A lawyer with 10+ years' good PQE could gain invaluable experience here. Ref: T26438

### IP LITIGATION

### To £35,000

Intellectual property is a specialism that is made for niche firms, and the success of this well-known London practice proves it. You will have great freedom to develop your interest in a wide range of IP work, especially if you are a litigator with 5+ or 2-3 years' post. Includes some licensing. Ref: T24463

### CAP. MARKETS/PROJECT FINANCE

### To £100,000

If you join the London office of this major US firm as it moves into a major expansion phase, you will reap some very substantial benefits, including eventual partnership. A super move if you are a capital markets or corporate lawyer with 3-5 years' post. Ref: T23616

### EMPLOYMENT

### To £50,000

If you consider yourself tall, young and gobby and don't want the law to squeeze that out of you, then this well-known London firm is the one for you. Renowned for its youthful staff and almost revolutionary approach to training, it's a great place for an employment lawyer with 0-3 years' post. Ref: T4542

### REINSURANCE

### To £80,000

Move into the big league as a reinsurance litigator at the London office of the major national firm. You will be concentrating on big ticket cases mainly involving the Lloyd's marine. This is an important and fast-growing part of the firm's practice, so you will be well-rewarded for your expertise. Ref: T65

### COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

### To £50,000

Even in a market that is buoyant right now, this headline-making top 10 City firm is doing notably well. The good atmosphere it engenders and the top pay it rewards its staff with make this a super move for a commercial litigator with 3-4 years' post, a nice personality and good academics. Ref: T45455

### CORPORATE TAX

### To £70,000

There are seriously good partnership prospects at this top 10 City firm for corporate tax lawyers with 0-3 years' post. You will be made up early if you can work on cutting edge masters and have a pleasant personality to match the rest of the department. Secondments to New York possible. Ref: T38212

### PROJECT FINANCE

### To £120,000

When you work for the best, you have every right to expect the best, both in terms of work and pay. At the London office of this top 5 US firm, you will get just that and even more than you expected, including remarkable responsibility and travel, if you have 2-4 years' post finance post. Ref: T24056

### CONTENTIOUS IP

### To £75,000

You will immediately take on a senior role as an IP litigator at the London office of this leading national firm. Partnership is very much on the agenda if you have 5-7 years' post as a City firm, as well as patents knowledge and trial experience. A science background is preferable but not crucial. Ref: T24463

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

### To £62,000

You will enjoy unrivaled training and career development at this top 10 City firm if you can show 0-4 years' post as a good property practice. In addition, your work will be surprisingly varied, while you will be given a level of client contact and responsibility that will really help your career. Ref: T6594

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

### To £70,000

Join a highly regarded financial services team at this top 10 City firm. You will be offered a range of opportunities, including a chance to specialise in structured finance, pensions and insurance. Ref: T24463

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### GENERAL COMMERCIAL



Education in prisons could be used to lessen a sentence if a prisoner were to try to gain an educational qualification

## Can we eliminate evil?

### Education should serve a rehabilitative purpose for the inmates of prisons, says Joel Parkes

I work in police stations and represent people who have been arrested. Mostly those arrests lead to interviews on tape-recorders, and the arrested person has a right to have a solicitor or a legal representative present to advise him or her on the evidence, and what the best course of action is when it comes to answering questions.

Most criminals are simple and non-threatening when it comes to a discussion with the only friendly face they have seen in custody. But I do encounter evil, and solicitors or legal representatives who tell you that they have not or are not getting much work or are not perceptive.

Many people see prison as the last stop for the criminal on the train of justice. The criminal has been arrested, represented in court, had a chance to put his or her side of the story to a judge and jury, been found guilty and will now face the punishment that society has deemed necessary.

Criminologists and legal academics all agree that sentencing has more than one purpose. It should reflect society's revulsion of the crime committed and it should help to protect society from a person who is dangerous. The act of putting people in prison should also be guided by a rehabilitative purpose. To turn someone out on the street after years of harsh social conditioning and unhealthiness, peer pressure without adequate rehabilitation cannot be a sensible way in which to address the social root of crime.

But that is what the British penal system does. The nature of the educational services offered in the prison system today can only be described as abysmal. Of the estimated prison population of 56,000 in the UK, there are only some 250 inmates studying for a

degree qualification. They are forced to take their degrees via the Open University. This is because the prison system of education is set up so that there is no standardisation of services or educational materials from one prison to the next, and the Open University is the best option for the inmate who gets moved between prisons during a custodial sentence.

There are educational services at prisons that provide basic skills guided by the national core curriculum, but their implementation is left to the prison governors.

How can that possibly accommodate the inmate who, perhaps for the first time in his life, is on the road to self-improvement through study, only to have his course cut short when he is transferred to a prison where the programme does not exist?

**B**ut what of the prisoner who does not want to accept education in prison, even if offered? One possible solution is offering the prisoner the option of studying for an educational qualification as a condition for a lesser sentence. The educational qualifications could be as varied as the prisoners, from lessons in basic literacy

and numeracy skills to university-level degree qualifications.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, is receptive to this idea. "I am strongly in favour of providing as much education as is practicable in prisons," he says. "I would support prisoners being able to earn remission by educational achievements."

For this to work, there must be an acceptance of the validity of social intervention.

Social intervention is a broad concept, but it is a key component of the ever-developing world of criminological theory.

We can either lock prisoners up and forget about them or we can make the real effort to change them when we have them in custody. Almost all prisoners eventually get back on the streets. Is it really such a hard decision? If they were given a chance to be educated I think that they would be less likely to reoffend. Such a move seems to make perfect sense.

## Solicitors go for the hard sell

Frances Gibb attends a seminar explaining how lawyers can best compete for work

Solicitors are now salesmen. They have to be, to survive. But how, and where, should they sell their wares? Last week the American Chamber of Commerce held a top-level seminar for 80 lawyers from City and American law firms to debate how they can best compete for work. Joe Macrae, of ZMB, the legal recruitment consultants who sponsored the event, said: "The market is now fiercely competitive."

American law firms are thrusting into the City of London, a crucial gateway to Europe. And City law firms are seeking to expand, probably through mergers.

Such as "litigation, specialist

practice law advice".

BSkyB did not go particularly to "media" firms, she said; rather it sought the expertise of an individual. Her checklist of what to look for in a firm or lawyer were accessibility ("I speak to Charles Plant/Herbert Smith every week"); ability to do the job quickly; a "can-do" attitude—"we want to know how to do the deal, not whether we should do it"; ability to present the legal

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## Loss not in parties' contemplation

Total Transport Corporation v Arcadia Petroleum Ltd

Before Lord Justice Stautherton, Lord Justice Auld and Sir John Balcombe

Judgment November 18

A clause in a charterparty providing for "loss suffered by charterers due to failure to comply fully with charterers' voyage instructions" to be the responsibility of the shipowner did not entitle the charterers to recover loss which was not in the reasonable contemplation of the parties.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the charterers, Arcadia Petroleum Ltd, against the decision of Mr Justice Rix ([1996] 2 Lloyd's Rep 408) to set aside an arbitration award on an Arbitrator's form of \$681,034.05 plus interest at 5.5 per cent awarded to Total Transport Corporation, the disponent owners of the ship, Eurus.

Mr Simon Rainey for the charterers, Mr Richard Jacobs for the shipowners.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that clause 36 was the critical clause and provided: "Owners shall be responsible for any time, costs delays or loss suffered by charterers due to failure to comply fully with charterers' voyage instructions." There then followed a deletion and the clause continued: "Provided such instructions are in ac-

cordance with the charterparty and custom of the trade specified in voyage orders".

The charterers' case was that the owners, in breach of contract, did not comply with the instructions which the charterers gave. Their loss was claimed either as damages or as money payable under a contractual indemnity.

The claim for damages failed but the one for indemnity succeeded. The claim for damages was not awarded either before Mr Justice Rix or the Court of Appeal.

On January 23, 1992 the charterers nominated the Eurus to load a cargo under a supply contract with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation for loading between January 29 and 31, with an estimated time of arrival of January 31 at the port of Forcalquier.

On January 23 the Nigerian Corporation announced their prices for February which were lower than the January prices and so it was in the interest of the charterers that the vessel should not complete loading before February 1.

The arbitrators found that, if the vessel had presented herself for loading at 1100hr on January 31, then loading would have extended beyond 0600hr on February 1.

In the afternoon of January 31, a message reached the owners from the charterers, asking the owners to slow down the loading in order to ensure that the vessel received a February 1 bill of lading. There was no suggestion at that stage that the critical time was anything other than 0001hr on February 1.

The master then advised that he expected to complete loading at

0130hr on that day and he did.

Neither he nor the owners had any reason to suppose that it was necessary to prolong the loading, if he could, until later that morning.

There was, however, a rule of the Department of Petroleum Resources in Lagos that if loading was completed prior to Sam on the first day of a new month, the bill of lading was to be dated the last day of the old month.

The rule had been in force for some eighteen or twenty years and was designed to enable the department to carry out its audit stock at the end of each month without doing so during working hours.

The supply contract between the charterers and the Nigerian Corporation was governed by Nigerian law. The charterparty, however, was governed by English law.

The arbitrators found that, if the vessel had presented herself for loading at 1100hr on January 31, then loading would have extended beyond 0600hr on February 1.

It would have then followed that the charterers would have had to pay the lower, February price. In the event, they were obliged to pay the January price, which cost them the additional sum of \$681,034.05.

Neither the charterers nor the owners knew about the Sam rule.

The arbitrators held that the existence of the Sam rule was not an effective or intervening cause of the charterers' loss and that the cause of the loss was the master's

failure to comply with the charterers' instructions.

The case for the charterers was that clause 36 in its role as an indemnity clause required proof that the loss was caused by failure to obey the charterers' orders, but not that the loss should be within the reasonable contemplation of the parties.

The judge treated that part of the case as raising two questions:

1. Was clause 36 an indemnity provision?

2. If it was an indemnity provision, was the clause confined to reasonably foreseeable loss?

His Lordship preferred to treat the problem as one question of interpretation of the contract: did the clause provide that the charterers could recover even if the loss suffered was not within the reasonable contemplation of the parties?

In his Lordship's judgement, it was not the intention of the parties to provide, by clause 36, that a particular kind of breach of contract by the owners should attract liability even for unforeseeable consequences, while in the case of all other breaches of contract the ordinary rule of remoteness would apply.

His Lordship would therefore uphold the decision of Mr Justice Rix.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir John Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance, Holman Fenwick & Willan.

## Court's jurisdiction to extend time

Finnegan v Parkside Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Maniell

Judgment November 30

Absence of good reason for delay was not sufficient reason for the court to refuse to exercise its discretion to extend time for appeal under Order 3, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Even where no good reason for delay was forthcoming, prejudice could be a relevant consideration.

The Court of Appeal so held after an appeal by the plaintiff, Linda Finnegan, from the dismissals by Judge Taylor, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, on October 14, 1996, of her application for leave to appeal out of time against the striking out for want of prosecution of her action for negligence against Parkside Health Authority.

Mr Richard Mawrey QC and Mr Mark Twomey for Mrs Finnegan; Miss Fiona Neal for the health authority.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said Mrs Finnegan's claim arose from an operation at the defendants' hospital in February 1989. The writ had been issued on February 26,

1992, two days before the expiry of the limitation period. After some preliminary steps, the case had gone to sleep until February 16, 1996, when her solicitors had served a notice of intention to proceed.

On July 12, 1996, the master had struck out the case on the defendants' application and the plaintiff had served notice of appeal 62 days later on September 12, 1996, 57 days late. Her application for leave to appeal out of time had been dismissed by Judge Taylor.

Her solicitors had given rather lame excuses for delays in August and September, but had given no explanation why the notice of appeal had not been served within the five-day limit or for anything that had gone wrong before the end of July.

The judge had considered three Courts of Appeal cases: *Castellon v Somersett County Council* ([1993] All ER 452); *Revill v Prentiss Hall* ([1994] 1 WLR 157) and *Savill v Southend Health Authority* ([1995] 1 WLR 1254).

He had concluded that while in *Castellon* stress was laid on the importance of prejudice, he felt bound to follow the somewhat

different approach in *Revill* and *Savill* and that in the absence of any explanation of the delay during the crucial period, there was no material before the court at which it could exercise its discretion in the plaintiff's favour, so that any question of prejudice, even if minimal or non-existent, was irrelevant.

The court had to decide whether there was a conflict between the two lines of authority.

His Lordship reviewed the authorities and referred to *Mortgage Corporation v Sandos* (The Times December 27, 1996), decided six weeks after the instant case, in which the Court of Appeal had expressly rejected the argument that the absence of good reason was always and in itself sufficient to justify the court in refusing to exercise its discretion, and held that the true position was that once a party was in default it was for him to satisfy the court that discretion should none the less be exercised in his favour, for which purpose he could rely on the previous circumstances.

Lord Justice Maniell agreed.

Solicitors: Zelin & Zelin, Beechcroft Stanleys.

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Merchant Chambers is delighted to announce that:

Catherine Fisher LLB (Lond.) BCL (Oxon.), First Class, New York State Bar, formerly of Ropewalk Chambers, Nottingham has this month joined Chambers; and

Nell Berragan MA (Oxon.) currently at 9 St John Street, Manchester will join Chambers on the 1st January 1998.

As from January 1998 the Members of Chambers will be:

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Neil Berragan 1982 Call

Stephen Cogley 1984 Call

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EQUITAS

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

Court of Appeal

## Particulars must be in indictment

Regina v Roberts and Others</p

## Owner managers fear effect of festive break

By RODNEY HOBSON

MANY owner managers will be taking work home this Christmas while others will be forced to close down for up to a fortnight against their wishes.

Lloyds TSB reckons that half of all small business owners have got too much to do to afford the luxury

### It pays to relax at Christmas

LLOYDS TSB asked Cary Cooper, Professor of Organisational Psychology at the Manchester School of Management, for advice on relaxing during the holiday.

■ Keep a healthy balance between work and play. Taking a break makes you feel much more alert, reduces stress levels and helps you to think more clearly.

■ Remember that your in-tray will always be full. When you realise you may never completely empty it, work will become more manageable.

■ Concentrate on what is essential and complete less important tasks only when you really need to. Don't try to tackle everything at once.

■ Set business goals for 1998. Deciding on your goals can help to reduce worries over Christmas.

■ Don't slump in front of the TV. Fill your spare time with interesting and absorbing pursuits.

■ If you must take work home, allocate a period when you can concentrate fully.

of a complete rest. They fear competitors will snatch trade if they slack.

One company in three reckons that Christmas is the most stressful period of the year. Not surprisingly, retailers are worst affected. The majority say they cannot take more than two days off.

John Spence, managing director of business banking at Lloyds TSB, sympathises: "Small businesses face extra pressure in the run-up to Christmas. With tight deadlines to meet and the prospect of not getting paid until after the new year, it's no surprise that many can't get work off their minds."

In contrast, Barclays Bank claims that about half of all companies will take a complete break between Christmas and the new year and some will shut for two weeks.

A survey of medium-sized companies found that 55 per cent believed that the Christmas holiday was getting longer and 69 per cent complained that the seasonal break had an adverse effect on their business.

Almost a quarter of firms said they would have to shut down against their wishes because their customers were closed.

■ This year and next will be the last chance for firms to give staff retail vouchers for high street stores without incurring national insurance. The exemption is due to be ended in April 1999.

## Jack springs a surprise

By JENNIFER COX

AFTER studying display and design in London, Andrew Hinks became a window dresser. Aged 22, he was stuck; working for Liberty meant, in his profession, there was nowhere better to go.

Or so he thought. When requests to buy a Jack-in-the-box he had made for a window display started flooding in, he began making them from home. Twenty years later, Mr Hinks heads the only such company in Britain, with an annual turnover of £250,000.

In 1978 Liberty asked him to use its fabrics for an elaborate toy-themed display. It encouraged him to make more Jacks in his spare time, to be sold in the store's scarves department. Four years later, he gave up his job, set up a stall in Covent Garden, and did nothing but make the old-fashioned toy, managing to complete about 20 a day.

From Jack in the Box, his company, in Islington, North London, he now makes about 30,000 of the hand-made toys a year. Employing six people since he went into mass production five years ago, Mr Hinks, 41, has only recently started to make a respectable profit. Turnover in the first year was £60,000.

"It has been a lot of hard work with not much financial reward until the last couple of years," he said. "You have to make a lot of Jacks, and we are only just getting there now."

Half the company's output goes to America, Singapore, Japan,



Andrew Hinks, with Jacks of his trade, makes 30,000 a year. "We have done well, in a small way."

Germany and Hong Kong, a particularly good customer during the handover celebrations. Mr Hinks, who has been almost entirely self-financed, also supplies Pollock's Toy Museum and has done a number of commissions, including a glittery Jack for *The Shooting Party*, the film, and a Siamese version for a Rumbelews promotion.

As well as Liberty in this country, Mr Hinks's Jack-in-the-boxes are on sale at Hamleys, Harrods, John

Lewis, Fortnum & Mason, and Daisy and Torn. He has also made a fairy-in-the-box, selling in the Royal Academy shop to promote the Victorian fairy painting exhibition, which will become part of his main collection next year.

The first Jack-in-the-box is believed to have been made in 1810, but they did not become commonplace until after the Industrial Revolution, when springs were mass-produced. Retailing at be-

tween £11.95 and £29.95, the 42 varieties of Jacks he produces have never been more popular. Mr Hinks said: "The Barbie business is so saturated, people are looking for something a little different. There is a great interest in nostalgia."

"It is not exactly how I planned my life, but the business is now as big as I want it to get and I am pleased it has been a success. We have done well, in a small way."

A lack of skilled workers is now the single most important problem for firms with more than 25 employees, according to the latest NatWest Bank/Small Business Research Trust report. The shortage is worse than at any time since 1989. Smaller businesses still rate low turnover as their greatest worry, although the proportion citing difficulty in recruiting the right staff has risen from 1 per cent to 11 per cent over the past five years.

□ Barclays Bank is sending questionnaires to its business customers to assess the size of the millennium computer timebomb and what action is being taken.

□ Business Link Hampshire is offering Websites to businesses in the county for £149 plus VAT. Each site will contain three Web pages. Information from Rachael Bridger on 01329 223203.



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Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon last Saturday received 20 extra transfers in addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (students' and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

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By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (students' and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

It's your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon last Saturday received 20 extra transfers in addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

# THE FA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

**HOW TO PLAY**

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.

You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.

You may enter as many teams as you wish.

**HOW TO ENTER BY POST**

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

**HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE**

0891 405 011  
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must enter (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') in appropriate places. If so, as directed on the telephone, you must repeat the name of your team (maximum 12 characters), your name, address, telephone number and your daytime telephone number.

Finally you will be asked for personal identification, namely date of birth at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your player numbers when checking your team's score. A new team will score points on future games and the mini leagues will last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).

To enter, call

# 0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

## HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

### THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

|                  |                       |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| TEAM NAME        | (Up to 16 characters) |  |
| Goalkeeper       |                       |  |
| Full back        |                       |  |
| Full back        |                       |  |
| Central defender |                       |  |
| Central defender |                       |  |
| Midfielder       |                       |  |
| Striker          |                       |  |
| Striker          |                       |  |
| Manager          |                       |  |

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheque / PO No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.  
 Women's League     Student League  
 Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box

Which age group are you? 18-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65+   
 How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month  1-2 times a month  3-4 times a month   
 How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a week  1-3 times a week  4-6 times a week   
 Do you have a PC? Yes  No   
 If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

## GOALKEEPERS

Code Name Team Price £m

|                      |                     |      |
|----------------------|---------------------|------|
| 10201 J Leighton     | Aberdeen            | 2.00 |
| 10202 D Sorenson     | Arsenal             | 8.00 |
| 10203 K Smith        | Barnsley            | 1.00 |
| 10204 D Watson       | Blackburn Rovers    | 3.60 |
| 10205 J Brannagan    | Bolton Wanderers    | 1.60 |
| 10206 C Colly        | Celtic              | 4.00 |
| 10207 J Gould        | Chesterfield        | 3.00 |
| 10208 G De Gea       | Chelsea             | 1.00 |
| 10209 G Ogrizovic    | Coventry City       | 1.00 |
| 10210 G Parkin       | Crystal Palace      | 0.25 |
| 10211 G Stanich      | Derby County        | 1.00 |
| 10212 H Miller       | Dundee United       | 1.00 |
| 10213 M Foote        | Everton             | 1.00 |
| 10214 P McAllister   | Fulham              | 1.00 |
| 10215 N Southall     | Hearts              | 2.00 |
| 10216 G Rousset      | Hibernian           | 1.00 |
| 10217 D McLean       | Leeds United        | 1.00 |
| 10218 G Cottalossian | Hibernian           | 1.00 |
| 10219 D Letts        | Kilmarnock          | 1.00 |
| 10220 Y Martyn       | Luton Town          | 1.00 |
| 10221 R Keane        | Man City            | 3.00 |
| 10222 P James        | Liverpool           | 3.50 |
| 10223 P Schmeichel   | Manchester United   | 6.00 |
| 10224 H Howe         | Millwall            | 1.00 |
| 10225 B Cowan        | Newcastle United    | 3.00 |
| 10226 A Goran        | Rangers             | 6.00 |
| 10227 J Prendergast  | Sheffield Wednesday | 1.00 |
| 10228 D Jones        | Sunderland          | 1.00 |
| 10229 G Rossiter     | Tottenham Hotspur   | 2.50 |
| 10230 I Walker       | Tottenham Hotspur   | 2.50 |
| 10231 L Milenko      | West Ham United     | 2.00 |
| 10232 N Sullivan     | Wimbledon           | 2.50 |

## FULL BACKS

Code Name Team Price £m

|                      |                  |      |
|----------------------|------------------|------|
| 20201 L Dixon        | Arsenal          | 3.00 |
| 20202 H Wharkeham    | Arsenal          | 3.00 |
| 20203 E Peacock      | Barnsley         | 1.00 |
| 20204 E Parker       | Bolton Wanderers | 2.00 |
| 20205 M Thompson     | Bolton Wanderers | 2.00 |
| 20206 D Barnard      | Bolton Wanderers | 0.50 |
| 20207 D Ballantyne   | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20208 S Peacock      | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20209 J Keane        | Blackburn Rovers | 3.00 |
| 20210 G Murray       | Blackburn Rovers | 2.00 |
| 20211 N Cox          | Blackburn Rovers | 2.00 |
| 20212 M Whittle      | Bolton Wanderers | 1.50 |
| 20213 J Phillips     | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20214 T Boyd         | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20215 D McKinlay     | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20216 J McInnes      | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20217 J McInnes      | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20218 J McInnes      | Bolton Wanderers | 1.00 |
| 20219 G Le Seux      | Chelsea          | 4.00 |
| 20220 P Petrescu     | Chelsea          | 4.00 |
| 20221 G Pizarro      | Chelsea          | 2.00 |
| 20222 F Sinclair     | Chelsea          | 2.00 |
| 20223 D Burrows      | Coventry City    | 1.00 |
| 20224 M Hall         | Coventry City    | 1.00 |
| 20225 J Mason        | Coventry City    | 1.00 |
| 20226 J McInnes      | Coventry City    | 1.00 |
| 20227 R Dryden       | Everton          | 1.00 |
| 20228 C Lineker      | Everton          | 1.00 |
| 20229 J St Johnstone | Falkirk          | 1.00 |
| 20230 S McErlain     | Falkirk          | 1.00 |
| 20231 J St Johnstone | Falkirk          | 1.00 |
| 20232 R Evans        | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20233 P Doherty      | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20234 D Murphy       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20235 J Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20236 R Evans        | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20237 D Pashley      | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20238 J Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20239 G Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20240 J Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20241 G Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20242 G Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20243 G Taylor       | Fulham           | 1.00 |
| 20244 G Taylor       | F                |      |

## SAILING

# Scoring system points way to brighter racing

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

**FINALLY,** the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet is enjoying what Lawrie Smith, the British skipper of *Silk Cut*, yesterday called "proper yacht racing" as the crews continue their game of cat and mouse on the long heat across the Great Australian Bight towards the Bass Strait.

Smith is relishing the chance to mix it in a fleet-racing setting where trimming for speed, good crew-work, boat handling and sharp tactics make the difference between winning and losing. On the first two legs, there was precious little of this, when two boats 100 miles apart were considered close.

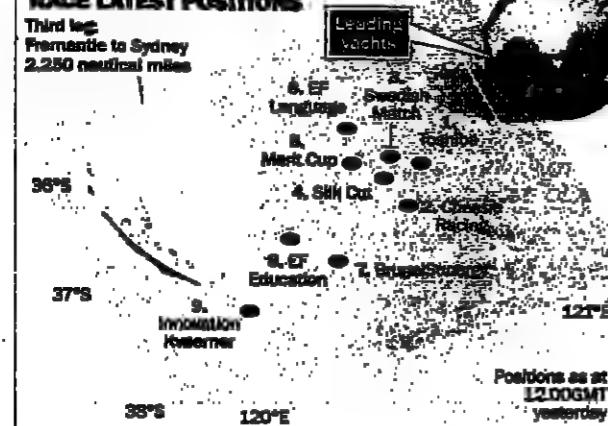
Now it is more like a giant Admiral's Cup race and that should suit the experienced inshore racers in the fleet such as Smith, Paul Cayard, on *EF Language*, John Koscicki, on *Cessna Racing*, and Roy Heiner, on *BruneiSunergy*. Yesterday, the third day out from Fremantle, there was still less than 20 miles separating first — Paul Standbridge.

on *Toshiba* — from last — Knut Frostad, on *Innovation Kvaerner* — and average speeds were remarkably consistent throughout the fleet.

Having left the southwest tip of Australia behind, the fleet has spread out on a north-south axis over about 60 miles, with Cayard furthest north and Frostad furthest south. Grant Dalton, skipper of *Merit Cup*, the third-most northerly boat, said he believed that a mistake by anyone now could have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the leg.

Boats are starting to make their play for a north or south course, so it will be another 24 hours or so until things start to sort themselves out, Dalton said. "A mistake now could prove costly in the long run. I'm not prepared to say what we think, but there appear to be two schools of thought, although not radically different ... the southern course taken by Kvaerner and the northern course by *EF Language*."

## WHITEHEAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE LATEST POSITIONS



**DISTANCE TO FINISH** (as at 1200GMT, with miles to Sydney): 1. *Toshiba* (US) 1,645.2 miles; 2. *Cessna Racing* (US) 1,645.8; 3. *Swedish Match* (Swe) 1,648.8; 4. *Silk Cut* (GB) 1,649.8; 5. *Merit Cup* (Monaco) 1,652.3; 6. *EF Language* (Swe) 1,653.4; 7. *BruneiSunergy* (Holl) 1,654.7; 8. *EF Education* (Swe) 1,656.9; 9. *Innovation Kvaerner* (Nor) 1,658.0.

The fascination of this race has much to do with the new points system. Yesterday, for example, the fleet ranking order translated into final overall positions at the end of leg three, propels Standbridge into a 15-point lead over Cayard. There are then only 20 points separating Cayard from Frostad, who would have slipped from leading to fifth place, behind *Swedish Match* in third and Smith in fourth place. Dalton would be off the pace in seventh, a full 44 points adrift of Standbridge.

With positions of rival boats transmitted to the skippers every six hours, it is impossible for them to ignore the changing arithmetic of the points system, as they try to weigh up competing options on the course. There is no doubt, for example, that Dalton will do almost anything in the next few days to try to stop himself drifting down the fleet in a leg that he set out to win. It is hard to imagine him setting off at the beginning of leg four in three weeks' time, to his home port of Auckland, in seventh place overall.

Standbridge, meanwhile, is happy to be ahead after surviving a series of what he called his "heart-stopping moments" on *Toshiba*. All the drama happened as the yacht was passing Rottnest Island, shortly after the start of the leg at the weekend. First, the boat got stuck in a fish trap, then one of the halyard winches sheared from its mountings and flew into the sea and finally the depth transducer in the forward section of the hull popped out, flooding the bow compartment.

"After that, we settled down to a night of crashing and banging, short tacking our way south in up to 28 knots," Standbridge said yesterday. "At the moment, it is a drag race for the first time."

# Sun goes down on calamitous Cowboys

By OLIVER HOLT

**THE** spotlight fell on the fall from disgrace of the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. Like Ian Wright, the Arsenal footballer, they appear to have conquered their extracurricular problems only at the expense of their on-field prowess and, as they slid out of the National Football League (NFL) play-off picture with another embarrassing defeat, the club that has inherited their mantle of America's Team surged on towards the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys, who have won the National Football Conference (NFC) East division title for the past five years, collapsed to a 31-24 defeat at the hands of the Cincinnati Bengals. They have now lost nine of their 15 games this season — the first time for seven years that they have failed to progress beyond the regular season.

Against a background of reports that, earlier in the week, Troy Aikman, the Cowboys quarterback, had stormed off the training field despairing of his colleagues' performance and attitude, fevered speculation has continued about the fate of the Dallas coach, Barry Switzer.

"We played a pretty good ball game," Switzer said, "except for the second and third quarters, when it was disastrous." That provoked more mirth about the pronouncements of a man once labelled Bozo the Coach. His statement, one American commentator said, was like crediting Saddam Hussein with having a good Gulf War until the United States got involved.

The architect of the Cowboys' downfall was Boomer Esiason, the veteran Bengals quarterback, who passed for 269 yards and two touchdowns. It was the Cowboys' fourth successive loss and their seventh consecutive defeat away from their home field in Texas.

The Green Bay Packers, however, seem to be going from strength to strength. The Super Bowl champions and new idols of the sport have won their past four games and appear to be peaking at just the right time, vying now for home-field advantage throughout the play-offs.

which would virtually guarantee a return to the Super Bowl in San Diego next month.

Against the Carolina Panthers, at the Eriksson Stadium in Charlotte, where the home team used to be so dominant, the Packers eased past their hosts 31-10 with another superlative performance from Brett Favre, their quarterback. Omnipotently for the rest, though, the Packers' running game also seems to be coming good at just the right time.

The win took the Packers' record to 12 wins and three defeats and piled the pressure on the San Francisco 49ers, the other dominant team in the NFC, to beat the Denver Broncos last night in the race for home-field advantage. Next weekend is the last in the regular season.

Dorsey Levens, the Packers' leading running back, rushed 17 times for 73 yards, but the best move of the game was made by Antonio Freeman, the wide receiver. With the Packers leading 17-3 in the third quarter, Freeman executed a wonderful feint that deceived his covering player and freed him to receive Favre's bullet throw.

If the Cowboys' decline has been spectacular, then so, too, has the improvement of the New York Jets. The whipping boys of the NFL last season with just one win, they moved to within an ace of the play-offs on Sunday by routing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 31-0 in New Jersey.

The Buccaneers, who have scraped through to the play-offs, were overrun by the Jets, who can now clinch their own place by beating the Detroit Lions in Michigan next week, a result that would bring them their tenth victory this year. They could even clinch the American Football Conference East division title if the New England Patriots and the Miami Dolphins tie in Florida, a scenario that would have been ridiculed a year ago.

"Tampa Bay has a young team," Bill Parcells, the Jets' coaching alchemist, said, "and we got the jump on them today. Maybe they had a tough time keeping things in perspective." Perhaps that problem is afflicting Switzer, too.



Lake Dowson scores a spectacular touchdown as Kansas City defeat San Diego

## RESULTS AND TABLES

| AFC Eastern division |    |    |     |     |     |
|----------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
|                      | W  | L  | T   | F   | A   |
| Kansas City          | 12 | 3  | 0   | 580 | 219 |
| Denver               | 11 | 3  | 0   | 417 | 260 |
| Seattle              | 9  | 5  | 0   | 367 | 265 |
| Oakland              | 8  | 6  | 0   | 327 | 351 |
| San Diego            | 4  | 11 | 0   | 283 | 367 |
| Indianapolis         | 12 | 0  | 265 | 382 |     |

| AFC Central division |    |    |   |     |     |
|----------------------|----|----|---|-----|-----|
|                      | W  | L  | T | F   | A   |
| Pittsburgh           | 11 | 4  | 0 | 355 | 321 |
| Jacksonville         | 10 | 5  | 0 | 317 | 327 |
| Tennessee            | 7  | 8  | 0 | 304 | 324 |
| Baltimore            | 6  | 9  | 0 | 297 | 324 |
| Cincinnati           | 6  | 9  | 0 | 311 | 341 |
| Chicago              | 0  | 12 | 0 | 265 | 367 |

| AFC Western division |    |    |   |     |     |
|----------------------|----|----|---|-----|-----|
|                      | W  | L  | T | F   | A   |
| Green Bay            | 12 | 3  | 0 | 581 | 241 |
| Temple Bay           | 9  | 5  | 0 | 269 | 248 |
| Detroit              | 8  | 7  | 0 | 365 | 265 |
| Minnesota            | 7  | 8  | 0 | 318 | 351 |
| Chicago              | 4  | 11 | 0 | 245 | 367 |

| NFC Central division |    |    |   |     |     |
|----------------------|----|----|---|-----|-----|
|                      | W  | L  | T | F   | A   |
| N.Y. Giants          | 12 | 3  | 0 | 581 | 241 |
| Washington           | 7  | 8  | 0 | 365 | 265 |
| Philadelphia         | 6  | 9  | 1 | 265 | 347 |
| Tennessee            | 4  | 11 | 0 | 245 | 367 |
| Baltimore            | 6  | 9  | 0 | 297 | 324 |
| Arizona              | 3  | 12 | 0 | 254 | 363 |
| St Louis             | 4  | 11 | 0 | 265 | 341 |

| NFC Western division |    |    |   |     |     |
|----------------------|----|----|---|-----|-----|
|                      | W  | L  | T | F   | A   |
| St. Louis            | 12 | 3  | 0 | 581 | 241 |
| San Francisco        | 12 | 3  | 0 | 581 | 241 |
| Carolina             | 7  | 8  | 0 | 365 | 265 |
| New Orleans          | 6  | 9  | 0 | 297 | 324 |
| Seattle              | 4  | 11 | 0 | 265 | 367 |

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I saw this hand in the 1995 Oxford v Cambridge bridge match.

West East and b) that East does not have wastage in clubs — he has clearly bid Four Diamonds on second-round control, so cannot have second-round control of clubs.

Thus West can continue with Four No-Trumps and when East shows two of the five key cards (remember, spades is now the agreed suit and so the king of spades is the fifth ace), he can bid Six Spades.

The Gold Cup has been won by Alan Mould's team (Gary Hyett, John Collings, Martin Jones, Paul Bowyer and John Helme). In the final, played in Peebles, they beat Reissmann's team (Mike Perkins, Su Burn, Steve Eginton, Sally and Raymond Brock) by 60 IMPs. Mould beat Townsend and Reissmann in the semi-finals.

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 21 to Friday January 23. Tickets and information are available from the Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Tel: 0181-878 5844.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SHENANDOAH a. Mother-of-pearl

b. Rig of a racing yacht

c. A river in Virginia

MERCALLI a. Seale of earthquakes

b. Struck speechless

c. A type of pasta

Answers on page 46

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British advance

In the third round of the Fide (World Chess Federation) championship in Groningen, Holland, the British grandmasters Nigel Short and Michael Adams both won.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Sergei Tiviakov  
Fide world championship  
Groningen, December 1997

Sicilian Defence

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | c4 | c5 |  |  |  |





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*Times* writers continue to cast their eyes over the best sports books of the year

## Discerning view from chroniclers of new professional age

WHAT one yearns most for in sport is perspective. Rugby union needs it more than most as it struggles to come to terms with professionalism and it gets it from Ian Malin in *Mud, Blood and Money*. Malin, a journalist with *The Guardian*, subtitled his book: *English Rugby Union goes Professional* and paints a picture of a sport twisting and turning in desperation for the way forward.

Yet he does not isolate his subject, he does not remove it from the real world in the way that the outcrop of narratives on the British Isles tour to South Africa this summer do. For so many of the authors and their ghosts, there is

only the tour; they are as far removed from the perceptive and intelligent books on rugby touring that prospered during the Sixties and Seventies — mostly from the typewriters of Terry McLean and John Reason — as it is possible to be.

One's emotions are tugged by Malin from the very start: his dedication is to Ian Tucker, the Australian at Oxford University who died as the result of a tackle during a game last year. It does no harm to be reminded that the game survives on a basis of self-discipline and self-restraint, features which have required application off the field as much as on it during the

### RUGBY UNION

by David Hands

joined with Paul Thomas to write *Straight from the Hart* — part biography, part philosophy — and it sold 33,000 copies, which would be good going here, but in New Zealand was amazing for a sports book.

Now comes *Change of Hart* (due to be available here in the new year), which covers the period from Hart's elevation — at the third attempt — in 1995 to the position of national coach, which he will hold

until the 1999 World Cup. The two books are complementary, but the second suggests that New Zealand, probably for the wrong reasons, were right to give Hart his head in the immediate wake of the game going professional.

He brings to the game the formidable man-management and organisational skills that distinguished his business career with Fletcher Challenge Ltd. The book is largely an account of 1996, the year in which the All Blacks put behind them the loss of the World Cup final the previous year and showed the game just how it should be played and how much it meant to New Zealanders to win a series in

South Africa for the first time. However, Hart has a vision for the game which encompasses more than the global branding he seeks for the All Blacks, which stares intently at the possibility of rugby as a genuine world game — which, at present, it is not. He also concludes his book with words that may strike a chord in the light of pronouncements last week in the English game: "The more I'm involved, the more I see the need to support the amateur game and winning the World Cup would bring in the revenue to sustain our game at all levels."

Perhaps there is a touch of the amateur about Miles Harrison —

though not, I hasten to add, in the work he puts in which have helped develop his reputation as an informative television commentator. It is more the sense of boyish enthusiasm that runs through *Best Seat in the House*, the most readable of the Lions tour books. Harrison was fortunate in that his first Lions tour was a winning one. Like Malin, he brings a wider perspective to the work and enables us to share his enjoyment.

□ *Mud, Blood and Money*, by Ian Malin (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99). □ *Change of Hart*, by Paul Thomas (Hodder Moa Beckett). □ *Best Seat in the House*, by Miles Harrison (Aurum Press, £14.95).

## Trying to revive a once-proud literary tradition

### CRICKET

by Simon Wilde

IT WAS not the point of the piece, but the introduction to Murray Hedgcock's fascinating and delightfully produced little book, *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, provides a plausible explanation as to where cricket acquired its reputation for distinguished literature, a reputation that, in modern times, has sometimes appeared cruelly misplaced.

P. G. Wodehouse, one of the greatest comic writers in the English language, was a useful club player and ardent cricket fan who, as Hedgcock's compendium shows, loved to weave the game into his stories. Wodehouse once took nine for 14 during a school match at Dulwich and, until he settled in the United States, the game formed an integral part of his life.

What is striking is the apparent importance of cricket to the Edwardian literary set. Wodehouse frequently took the field with the likes of Arthur Conan Doyle, E. W. Hornung, J. M. Barrie, Hugh de Selincourt and Alec Waugh — and was far from the only one to incorporate the game into his fiction. Hornung wrote several stories around the magnificent Raffles, the gentleman thief and demon bowler, and de Selincourt penned arguably the finest fictional account of a game in *The Cricket Match*.

Nor was theirs the first celebrated literary circle to treasure the summer game: that honour goes to the Romantic group that included Charles Lamb, William Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt, and one of whom, John Nyren, chronicled the glory days of Hambledon, the first great cricket club, whose story is put into intriguingly fresh perspective by Ashley Mote and Peter Wynne-Thomas respectively in two more of the year's best books. No wonder the aspiring but not so well-connected Lancastrian, Neville Cardus, took to writing about the game.

Cricket was also popular among thespians, who met the authors in an annual fixture at Lord's for many years, as we are reminded by Grenville Simons' diligent and affectionate biography.



Atherton: biography

ness. It is a big business, in quantity if not originality or sales (unless Ian Botham's name is on the cover).

Journalists have tended to focus on the contemporary scene in the hope of reaching the mass-market (their laptops this year turning out, among other things, biographies of Michael Atherton and Jack Russell and two players' eye accounts of the Ashes series), amateurs on the nostalgic (biographies of long-ago heroes such as Grace, Sydney Barnes and Sammy Woods) and the worthy but ephemeral (histories of the game in Hertfordshire and under-arm bowling are among 1997's quainter offerings).

What is most noticeably absent is humour — which would not have amused Wodehouse. It is refreshing, therefore, when author and publisher dare to attempt something different and touched with human warmth, as is the case with Simon Hughes's alarmingly honest diary of his 15 years as a county cricketer, *A Lot of Hard Yakkis*. It is worth reading to the end, if only to hear about Botham and the dolceata.

Another revivingly offbeat diary is David Hopps's year-long odyssey that sets against England's travails and triumphs against Zimbabwe, New Zealand and Australia his own battles at the head of his Yorkshire village XI. While Atherton's leadership survives a traumatic year, the author's does not.

□ *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, edited by Murray Hedgcock (Hutchinson, £12.99).

□ *We're Right Behind You, Captain*, by David Hopps (Robson, £17.99).

□ *A Lot of Hard Yakkis*, by Simon Hughes (Headline, £16.99).

□ *The Glory Days of Cricket: The Extraordinary Story of Broadhalfpenny Down*, by Ashley Mote (Robson, £22.99).

□ *William Yardley: Master of Bat and Burlesque*, by Grenville Simons (Vestery Books, Bill Street, Birmingham, Malvern, Worcs, £15 plus £1.50 p&p).

□ *The History of Cricket: From the World to the World*, by Peter Wynne-Thomas (available from The Stationery Office, £25).

## Madness in top coach's methods

### TENNIS

by Julian Muscat

his greatest asset. As the sport's original psychiatrist, he has chosen a medium offering plenty of suitable candidates. The fallouts from such relationships are always spectacular, however, and Bollettieri's fiercest barbs are reserved for rival coaches who have simply outpaced him. In fashioning their own mind potions, they render his obsolete.

Essentially, Bollettieri's message is that he must control every facet of his charges to ensure the maximum reward. The irony is that his own disjunctive personal life reflects the fallacy of that philosophy. This book is worth a read for all the wrong reasons: it should be compulsory bedside material for overzealous tennis parents.

Given Bollettieri's missive of tennis as we approach the millennium, the publishers of *A Handful of Summers* have reprinted Gordon Forbes's assorted memoirs at precisely the right time. It makes a compelling account



Bollettieri's need to control his charges is a warning for parents of tennis prodigies

of a wide-eyed South African youth learning lessons in life as well as tennis on his international travels.

In a similar vein, *The Ballad of Worpole Road* — a poetic tribute to the development of Wimbledon, by Max Robertson formerly of BBC Radio — will appeal to those with a lighthearted disposition. This is ideal material for those with long memories, although some things never change. One of many enjoyable cartoons by Loope depicts the infant

Suzanne Lenigan receiving the gift of a tennis racket from her father, who fashioned her remarkable career. The teenage sensation is far from a Nineties phenomenon.

□ *My Aces, My Faults*, by Nick Bollettieri and Dick Schaap (Robson Books, £17.99).

□ *A Handful of Summers*, by Gordon Forbes (Harper Collins, £5.99).

□ *The Ballad of Worpole Road*, by Max Robertson (Queen Anne Press, £9.99).

## King inspires with tale of triumph over adversity

### EQUESTRIANISM

by Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING'S story is one to inspire every horse-mad teenager. Born to a non-horse family in the Devon village of Salcombe Regis, where her father is verger, King learnt to ride on the vicar's pony. When she was 11, she was taken to Badminton, at her insistence, and announced on the return trip that she wanted to become an event rider.

However, money was scarce and there was no "ready-made" pony for King to climb aboard, so her mother, Jill, managed to borrow ponies for her daughter to ride at the Axe Vale Pony Club. On leaving school, King went to the yard of Sheila Wilcox, three times a Badminton winner and a renowned taskmaster. Hard graft over 2½ years with Wilcox gave King the basic skills and tenacity to embark on an eventing career.

After a series of setbacks, financial relief came in the form of sponsorship by Carphone Gill Robinson, then a director of the company, has supported King ever since. A win at Badminton in 1992 on King William fulfilled King's childhood ambition. Since then, a team gold medal at the 1994 world championships and two European team gold medals have firmly established her in the top echelons of the sport.

King has collaborated with her selfless former groom, Annie Collings, and gives humorous insights into the horses that have shaped her career. The handsome King William, brilliant across country, but a careless showjumper, is likened to Gregory Peck, the film star Star Appeal, her 1996 Burghley winner, is a "thug" who "tries his heart out"; King Solomon, on which she won Blenheim last year, is a "mischievous wabbit with a touch of class". But it is the tail-wishing King Boris, on

## Home from the sea with some epic stories to tell

### SAILING

by Edward Gorman

balance between the strong and the weak, both physically and mentally.

Raphael Dinelli, the Frenchman rescued from certain death in the Southern Ocean by Pete Goss in this year's Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race, is an angry young man determined to show the French sailing establishment that he is good enough to race round the world. His book, *Rescue from Beyond the Roaring Forties*, is a generally well-translated account of how he ended up standing on the coach roof of a sinking Aligous in freezing seas, while Goss beat through 70-knot headwinds to find him.

Here is Dinelli after standing for hours in the frozen water: "It was terrible and it just seemed to go on and on. Each wave that struck me choked and froze, working down inside my suit. I could feel my feet locking up with the cold. I started dancing on the flooded, swept deck to keep my circulation going. I must have seemed like a madman, that black night in the midst of a raging sea..."

We have not heard the last of Dinelli, who has secured sponsorship to build a new Open 60 to campaign in next year's Around Alone race and then the Vendée in 2000. Perhaps in one of these marathons he will finally fulfil his dream.

□ *On Equal Terms*, by Marina Cantacuzino (Simon & Schuster, £16.99).

□ *Rescue from Beyond the Roaring Forties*, by Raphael Dinelli (Adlard Coles Nautical, £14.99).

## Purist puts case in battle for soul of Viennese Waltz

### DANCE SPORT

by Ruth Gledhill

authorised for competitive use and these are the ones Smith-Hampshire analyses.

Of all the five traditional ballroom dances, which have recently been unimaginatively renamed the standard dances, the Viennese is the most fun and most energetic to dance. Simply remaining upright can be a problem, due to the dizziness caused by the unceasing turns. For the novice female, remaining in a standing position is often achieved purely by clinging on for grim life to a partner.

Smith-Hampshire, undefeated in the Viennese between winning the European professional championship in 1985 and his retirement from competition dancing in 1991, provides great technical detail. His book is likely to appeal mostly to those aiming for Olympic gold medals, although anyone in the competitive sphere would find it useful.

It comes at a time when the world of dance sport is torn over the Viennese, danced more often in competitions on the Continent than in Britain. Smith-Hampshire and other purists worldwide want the dance to remain restricted to four figures: the reverse and natural turns and the reverse and natural fleckers, which are difficult, fast turns on the spot. They are engaged in heated debate with modernisers calling for lifts, curtsies and other figures to be introduced to add excitement and interest. However, the four standard competitive figures remain those

### SWIMMING

by Craig Lord

The authors lament the lack of media coverage of the sport since its heyday in the Fifties and Sixties, when British swimmers won Olympic, European and Commonwealth titles. "It is ironic that it could well be that swimmers lacked interest because they behaved themselves," the authors' wall in confirmation that, like the ASA itself, they have not understood the issue.

This book and the ASA should spend more time publicising the association's great successes and less turning the public off with a welter of information about how well its bureaucracy works.

If there is anything to commend in the book, it is the excellent use of old newspaper and magazine cuttings, postcards, cartoons and other artwork that tell the story of swimming in pictures. Generally, however, *In the Swim* is best left to sink without trace.

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## RUGBY UNION

# Saracens lead the upward march of game's new order

By DAVID HARDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT HAS taken them more than a year, but the money spent by Saracens and Newcastle seems to have broken the stranglehold on English rugby exerted by Bath and Leicester — and, to a lesser degree, Wasps.

That the old order is changing has been apparent this season, the only query being whether the newcomers can sustain their charge to the top or whether their bubble will burst. With two-thirds of the premiership season still to go, neither Saracens nor Newcastle will be making brash predictions, but already they have shown the kind of quality that has garnered in the points from which confidence grows.

But are Bath, Wasps and Sale — contenders for Europe and cup finalists last season but beaten by 50 points at Leicester over the weekend — declining forces, or did special circumstances attend their most recent games? Bath and Wasps played uncharacteristically badly, whereas Sale, when they had the ball, played to some effect at Welford Road. Their problem was that Leicester allowed them such meagre possession.

John Mitchell, the director of rugby at Sale, admitted that his absence with England for most of November had not helped, but added sternly: "I expect professional players to prepare themselves properly. We have lost momentum after starting November on a high." But if Mitchell's absence affected Sale, how much more would the absence with Eng-

## TABLE

|              | P | W | D | L | F   | A   | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Saracens     | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 185 | 103 | 14  |
| Newcastle    | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 180 | 103 | 12  |
| Bath         | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 184 | 161 | 8   |
| Leicester    | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 184 | 161 | 8   |
| Wasps        | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 222 | 201 | 6   |
| Richmond     | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 134 | 120 | 6   |
| London Wasps | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 178 | 165 | 6   |
| Northampton  | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 178 | 165 | 6   |
| Gloucester   | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 147 | 148 | 4   |
| Worcester    | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 109 | 153 | 2   |
| London Irish | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 90  | 153 | 2   |
| Sale         | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 222 | 222 | 0   |

land of Rob Smith, Pat Fox and Phil Keith-Roach have affected Wasps?

All three are key members of the Wasps coaching panel and were required by England to look after the A team, the conditioning and the scrummaging respectively. The absence of competitive rugby may not have been crucial, as Saracens and Newcastle demonstrated, but if the quality of work done in training declined due to the absence of management personnel, the individual clubs would be obliged to monitor the situation even more closely.

Similarly, Wasps, as league winners last season, were there to be shot at and, initially, their European campaign suggested that they were handling the problem well; however, once they started losing games and key players with injuries, they were unable to turn the tide.

Leicester, who suffered hiccups in the premiership at Northampton and in Europe, have more experience of dealing with the hard times. "You learn from the school of hard knocks," Duncan Hall, their assistant coach, said, with reference to the demanding second half of last season.

"We learnt so much from the first year of full-time training. We have stayed relatively injury-free and we have tried to align our training with that of England."

Leicester have also played their youngsters in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup, alongside their overseas players, with a beneficial effect.

Two of them, Lewis Moody and Paul Gustard, appear tonight in the Allied Dunbar Premiership game at Richmond, though Eric Miller is absent on Ireland duty, and Austin Healey and Darren Garforth are rested.

Richmond are without Spencer Brown, their England A wing, who damaged a cheekbone in the win over Bristol but give a premiership debut to Agustin Pichot, their Argentina scrum half.

Dawson has an injured ankle and is replaced in the back row by David Erskine, giving Ireland two Sale flankers. Erskine will play on the blind side with Dylan O'Grady moving to the open side.

Concerned, either, by events in the concurrent fixture in their pool, between Edinburgh and Exeter, Edinburgh deserved to shade a door contest 20-17. Both sides scored two tries, Richard Bibby and Richard Griffiths for Edinburgh and Paul Griffiths and Torquil Gordon-Duff for Exeter.

Ian Banks's kicking proved decisive for Edinburgh, but neither team were expected to achieve anything like the levels of performance that might have given Queen's some

29-9 but that has never been the Bath way.

They have always focused on the match in hand and, when playing badly, have dug deep into reserves of character that have allowed them, more often than not, to win by a handful of points. It was the absence of such character that neutral observers found most disturbing on Sunday.

However, the successful clubs must also be credited with getting their preparation right. "I have enormous respect for Bath and what they have achieved," Mark Evans, the director of rugby at Saracens, said, "but we should have scored 20 more points against them."

"I don't think we played brilliantly and we have all the hard work still to do. No one has taken us too seriously as contenders until now and that's an easy position from which to motivate yourself. We are there to be shot at now, and how we respond to that will be interesting."

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## Glasgow trying to bridge the gap

By KEVIN FERRIE

GLASGOW District yesterday moved closer to achieving the type of structure that they believe they need to become truly competitive in Europe by selecting a 42-strong elite development squad.

This route is the one many leading figures in the game believe Scottish rugby must now follow, as agonising continues over the recent capitulation to Australia and humbling at the hands of South Africa.

Calls for the removal of the national coach, Richie Dixon, have been accompanied by renewed demands for a solution to the damaging clubs v districts controversy, which led to the compromised domestic schedule and to such an unsatisfactory preparation for the meetings with the southern hemisphere powers.

However, the overriding impression has been of a shortage of raw talent, leaving Scotland unable to compensate for the loss of several key players.

Keith Robertson, the new Glasgow coach, has pointed out how, in his native New Zealand, young players are drawn into the provincial set-up directly from school, rather than coming through the clubs. While eager to point out that they do not want to bypass the clubs, Glasgow's creation of this elite squad addresses the perception that players are arriving at representative level ill-equipped.

"Our aim is to provide selected players with the information and opportunities to develop into complete players with the physical and mental ability to represent Glasgow and Scotland," David Jordan, the Glasgow chief executive, said. That players in the senior district squad are not receiving that sort of preparation at the moment seems to be underlined by the news of the resignation of John McHarg, coach of Kilmarnock Falcons, the district's third-highest placed club.

"If they want to play a social style of rugby I have no problems with that, I just have no wish to be part of it," McHarg explained.

Glasgow's elite group, including players from under-18 level and a quarter of graduates from the under-21 squad, will take part in seven sessions between January and March, covering fitness, diet, psychology and laws, as well as one-to-one coaching.

Scotland A will play Northern Transvaal in Glasgow on January 23. Scotland developed close links with the South African province when they were based in Pretoria for the 1995 World Cup.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Oldham to miss knockout challenge

■ RUGBY LEAGUE  
Oldham, who were Challenge Cup winners as far back as 1899, are being omitted from this season's competition. The decision to leave them out was taken after the Lancashire club went into liquidation and before the new club was launched.

"Decisions had to be taken in early November when Oldham weren't in existence," Peter Rose, a spokesman for the Rugby Football League, said. "The other 18 first and second division clubs will join the 22 amateur survivors from this weekend's second-round ties in the third round on January 31."

■ NATIONAL SERVICE  
■ HOCKEY: Five players from England's 1996 European indoor championship gold medal-winning squad have been included in the training party to take part in the European indoor championship in Orense, Spain from January 23 to 25.

Sue Knight, Sue Chandler, Michelle Liprot, Mandy Nicholls and Sam Wright should all be confident of regaining their places when the final team is announced after training at Lillehall on December 21.

■ TRAINING SQUAD: D Barnes, K Baile, P Forsyth, D Fraser, S Knight, S Wright (Slosh), S Blanks (Leicester), J Green, K Roberts (Chelmsford), M Liprot, D Palmer (Smith), K Walsh (Highgate), I Palmer (Cotwall), H Richardson (Sherwood)

### People's choice

■ TELEVISION: Greg Rusedski, Great Britain's No 1 tennis player, won the BBC Television Sports Personality of the Year Award.

Rusedski, 24, who was born in Montreal, but whose mother is English, was the runner-up at the US Open, reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and climbed to No 4 in the world.

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# If not bad publicity, it is certainly fawlt

**A**ssuming that you have now watched seven episodes of *The Hotel* (BBC1), you can understand why chief executives despair when advertising agencies urge them to increase their promotion budget; why businessmen say that they know that half the money they spend on advertising is wasted, but they don't know which half. And the reason you can empathise is that normally you would have to slip somebody far wads of folding money to keep the sort of bad publicity that is *Hotel* away from the nation's television screens.

Week after week, we have been peeking under the carpet of an hotel that is eerily like *Fawlty Towers* in its grabby attitude to guests, and in the way hot-headed staff scream at each other. There is just one key difference: the Adelphi hotel actually exists. That's why you have been assuming that the local Salvation Army hostel would need to be full before anyone

visiting Liverpool stayed in the Adelphi again. But it turns out that business at the Adelphi is booming as a result of this series. Bookings are up 20 per cent. This is like running an advertising campaign that says "Heinz ketchup tastes like gerbil poop" and then seeing sales zoom. What conclusions should businessmen draw about their advertising budgets now?

Last night, staff were rude about guests who had been evacuated in a bomb scare; the head chef once again abused diners (especially vegetarians), and the banqueting manager, Brian Birchall; guests, complaining about the rudeness of the waitresses at breakfast, were dismissed with the explanation, "it's a high-volume operation"; the police were called because no Adelphi staff had noticed a man walking into the breakfast room and helping himself to a purse while its owner was helping herself to bacon; porters refused to

unload suitcases for a coach party unless the coach driver coughed up £60 per bag; one of the porters, Keith, scrutinised the luggage labels of new arrivals in search of an address he might like to visit for his next holidays (once he has chosen his destination, he befriends the guest until he extracts an invitation to stay).

If you don't eat meat, can't carry your own suitcase but don't happen to be carrying any loose change; if you live in an enticing villa in Cap d'Antibes; if you prefer your waitresses to be civil; if you find it offensive to be charged twice the published room rate because rooms in the city are scarce; and if your pin-sharp hearing enables you to overhear rude comments staff might be making about you the minute your back is turned, then you are probably the guest for whom a stay at the Adelphi would be hell.

As far as the BBC is concerned,

the series has been a huge hit: eight million viewers. The Adelphi thinks so too. Its owner is considering inviting the cameras back for a second series (*The Adelphi: The Nightmare Continues* — it's just an idea). But as it becomes trickier every day to avoid a camera crew making yet another "docus-soap" about the Circle Line — or your newspaper shop, or the local sandwich bar, or taxi drivers, anything — this flood of fly-on-the-wall series is drowning hapless bystanders. The Adelphi staff have presumably agreed to play up to the cameras, but have all those drunk guests, who we see making fools of themselves after parties in the banqueting hall? They aren't, of course, the first people to act like twits in front of large television audiences, but at least Noel Edmonds and Dale Winton get paid well for doing it.

Michael Palin has been smart enough to wangle trips to more exotic destinations than Liverpool. Even in *Palin on the Redpath* (BBC2, when he was setting out to learn more about a painting of Menton that he bought some years ago, by the Scottish artist Anne Redpath, he announced halfway

through the programme: "The awful truth is becoming clear: to find out more about Anne Redpath I might be forced to go to the South of France." Yes, of course his tongue was in his cheek as he was saying this. But not quite as deep into his cheek as it might have been in the days before he had been around the world, from Pole to Pole, and around the Rim.

**P**alin has now elbowed himself into a position where he only needs to pick up any item in his house to spawn another foreign jaunt, along with accompanying television programme. May-be we can look forward to trips to Milan to learn more about Palin's Armani trousers; to New Zealand to learn how his kiwi fruit was grown; to China, to visit the factory that made his T-shirt; even to Liverpool, to trace the manufacturer of the moptop Beagle wig he bought in 1965. But he should av-

oid staying at the Adelphi, unless he wants Keith, the porter, to read his address off his luggage labels and turn up to stay for New Year's Eve.

Nigel Ellacott and Peter Robbins are two reasons why pantomime still flourishes in Britain. With their reach-for-the-skies Marge Simpson wigs, eyelashes like lawn rakes, outrageous haltergowns, and a stage patter perfected over 16 years of playing Cinderella's ugly sisters, Ellacott and Robbins were the unexpected stars of Channel 4's *Pantomime*, which ended its four-part run last night. They play the same roles year in and year out. The jokes don't change either. When they arrive at the fancy dress ball — dressed as a hat and as a high-heeled shoe — Buttons asks what they have come as. "Hatt!" says one sister. "Shoe!" snaps the other. "Bless you!" says Buttons. It's a pretty bad joke. But still not as bad as the Adelphi.

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Clearly, many people don't at all mind spending a weekend in hell. No wonder church attendances are falling.

As far as the BBC is concerned, the series has been a huge hit: eight million viewers. The Adelphi thinks so too. Its owner is considering inviting the cameras back for a second series (*The Adelphi: The Nightmare Continues* — it's just an idea). But as it becomes trickier

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (71897)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (85719)
- 8.00 Good Living (116586)
- 9.25 Style Challenge (1071413)
- 9.50 Kirov (T) (2882003)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1596968)
- 10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (858142)
- 11.35 Change That (387793)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (9228500)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (2502993)
- 12.35 Give Us A Clue (5102351)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (88006)
- 1.30 Regional News (17344522)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (86175581)
- 1.45 Neighbours (T) (72237036)
- 2.10 Patricelli William Shatner and Hamilton Ford guest (T) (1803326)
- 3.00 Vets In Practice (T) (T) (1413)
- 3.30 Playdays (7601793) 3.50 Arthur (7612056) 4.15 Fudge (3135697) 4.35 It'll Never Work (250516) 5.00 Newsround (T) (8181491) 5.10 Alquila (T) (6134229)
- 5.25 Neighbours (T) (8633561)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (535)
- 6.30 Regional News (887)
- 7.00 Holiday A cruise on the QE2; on safari in Tanzania; sunshine in the Algarve; gliding over Herefordshire; and Florida's Everglades (T) (9322)
- 7.30 EastEnders Cindy goes to court for the preliminary custody hearing, but Ros urges Ian not to attend (T) (871)
- 8.00 Auntie's Natural Bloomers Terry Wogan with BBC animal archive cuttakes (T) (2142)
- 8.30 A Question of Sport Sue Barker puts the questions to David Golia, Chris Eubank, Dalton Grant, Adam Hollickie and captains John Parrott and Ally McCoist (T) (4177)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (3429)
- 9.30 Crimewatch UK Nick Ross and Jill Dando appeal for help from the public to identify three robbers who murdered a delivery driver before stealing his van, and a man believed to be responsible for a spate of rapes in the Essex area (T) (745871)
- 10.20 Carry on Columbus (1982) with Jim Dale in the title role, and a cast including Rik Mayall, Nigel Planer, Julian Clary, Tony Slattery, Alex Saige and Keith Allen. Last and least of the series. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (1842424)
- WALES: 10.20 Week In, Week Out (816892) 10.50 FILM: Carry on Columbus (7630326) 12.15pm Crimewatch UK Update (8058223) 12.25 FILM: The Opposite Sex (5029782) 1.45 News (T) (190) 1.50 BBC News 24
- 11.45 Crimewatch UK Update (T) (765952)
- 11.55 The Opposite Sex (1993) with Courtney Cox and Kevin Pollak. Quirky comedy charting the rocky road to love and commitment travelled by a Jewish confirmed bachelor and his upper-class girlfriend. Directed by Matthew Meshchuk (761061)
- 1.15am Weather (5029253)
- 1.20 BBC News 24

VidéoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode® numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VidéoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the VidéoPlus+ number, then press the "plus" button. Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

© For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

### SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (782039) 8.00 Hotel (11628) 8.30 Hotel and the Seven Wives (747448) 10.00 The Queen (T) (857125) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (55952) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (74448) 1.00 Geri Halliwell (T) (857125) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (71906) 3.00 Jerry Jones (85252) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (74448) 5.00 The X Factor (857125) 6.00 The Big Breakfast (857125) 7.00 The Weather Show (7601793) 7.30 The Simpsons (7601793) 7.50 Merton (T) (857125) 8.00 Rescue Paramedics (T) (857125) 8.30 Copper (50817) 9.00 World's Scariest Police Officers (12425) 10.00 The Weather Show (55952) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (5045) 12.00 Late Show (55828) 1.15am The Rest of the Night (T) (57543) 2.20 Long Play (505949)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channel. To view any film telephone 0898 800883. Each film costs £2.25 per viewer

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transcode 28) Michael Collins (1989)

SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transcode 60) Genghis Khan (1990)

SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transcode 59) The Mighty Ducks (1996)

SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transcode 58) Dead Presidents (1995)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am While You Were Sleeping (1995) (57544) 8.00 Robin and the Seven Wives (74448) 10.00 Hotel (T) (857125) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (55952) 12.00 The Aviator (1995) (55051) 1.30pm Agatha Christie's Death Men's Party (1988) (56750) 5.00 Love Women (1988) (56752) 7.00 The Devil Went Down the Road (1982) (56753) 8.00 Once Upon a Time... Voices from the Grave (1995) (57210) 10.30 Deadman II: The Return of Death (1995) (575592) 12.00am The Innocent Sleep (1995) (56529) 1.45 Under the Purple Sun (1995) (57012) 3.20 Henry (1986) (57553)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Sunday (1997) (53226) 8.00 Ted (1995) (50502) 10.20 Time Warner Home Pictures (58592) 12.00 Head and Heart (56751) 1.30pm The Wizard (1995) (56751) 2.00 Sports Unlimited (575531) 2.30pm The Power of One (1992) (56752) 4.00 The Weather Show (7601793) 4.30pm The Weather Show (7601793) 5.00 Sports Unlimited (575531) 6.00 Sports Unlimited (575531) 7.00 Round Trip (575531) 8.00 Second Round: Replay (574577)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 3

6.00am Americas (570806) 7.30 Sports (574413) 8.00 Racing (570806) 9.00 Football League Review (76102) 10.00 National Motor Sport (575522) 11.00 The Big Picture (575522) 12.00m The Weather Show (7601793) 1.30pm Sports Unlimited (575531) 1.30pm Sports Unlimited (575531) 2.00pm Football (575531) 2.30pm Shopping (575531) 3.00 Sports Centre (575531)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 4

6.00am Americas (570806) 7.30 Sports (574413) 8.00 Racing (570806) 9.00 Football League Review (76102) 10.00 National Motor Sport (575522) 11.00 The Big Picture (575522) 12.00m The Weather Show (7601793) 1.30pm Sports Unlimited (575531) 1.30pm Sports Unlimited (575531) 2.00pm Football (575531) 2.30pm Shopping (575531)

GARANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (508242) 7.30 Coronation Street (568957) 7.30 Families (565132)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (520)

### BBC2

6.00am Arts: A New Mission at South Kensington (58605) 6.30 Sergeant Musgrave at the Court (38177)

7.00 See Hear Broadcast News (signing and T) (517779)

7.15 Teletubbies (T) (2884790) 7.40 Yakkity Duck (T) (8124351) 8.05 Blue Peter (T) (T) (8853868) 8.30 The Secret Life of Toys (T) (8313592) 8.45 The Record (4741522) 8.50 The Fugitive (T) (1724709) 10.00 Teletubbies (289249)

10.30 A Stitch in Time (1988) Slapstick comedy with Norman Wisdom. Directed by Robert Asher (T) (73953)

12.00 See Hear (T) (T) (T) (71239) 12.30pm Working Lunch (37581) 1.00 Fireman Sam (5650210) 1.10 Hammer It Home (7344567) 1.20 A River Runs Somewhere (38822) 2.00 Take a Meal With... Vanessa (T) (4916933)

2.30 Regional News (T) (8805210) 3.00 The Christmas Carol (8177603) 3.50 The Adventures of Paddington Bear (7323877) 4.00 Zzzap! Christmas Annuals (7830806) 4.15 Hey Arnold (321245) 4.30 Westminster (504867) 3.28 News (T) (4014262) 3.30 The Weather Show (966)

4.00 Ready Steady Cook (500) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (2599887) 4.30pm GMTV (2850264)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1153061)

10.00 The Time, the Place (43055)

10.30 This Morning (T) (9748993)

12.00pm Regional News (T) (805603)

12.30 News (T) and weather (5201806)

12.55 Home and Away (T) (5132215) 1.50 Quisine (T) (6912167) 2.20 Countdown to Christmas (T) (45996142) 2.50 Vanessa (T) (4916933)

3.20 News (T) (5365231)

3.25 Regional News (T) (4916937)

3.30 The Riddlers (2388061) 4.00 Wizadra's Christmas Carol (8177603) 3.50 The Adventures of Paddington Bear (7323877) 4.00 Zzzap! Christmas Annuals (7830806) 4.15 Hey Arnold (321245) 4.30 Westminster (504867) 3.28 News (T) (4014262) 3.30 The Weather Show (966)

4.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (T) (966158)

4.25 Heartbreak High (T) (963332)

7.10 The O Zone interview with the Spice Girls and the musical highs and lows of 1997 (257832)

7.30 From the Edge Last in series (T) (413)

8.00 University Challenge King's College, London v Nottingham University, for a place in the quarter-finals (9564)

8.30 Food and Drink Crab blinis champagne under £12 and sparkling wines under £8 (T) (2719)

9.00 Timewatch: In Search of Cleopatra: How Egyptian hieroglyphs are shedding light on the life of Cleopatra. Last in series (T) (8105303)

9.30 Picture This: Accidental Hero Andrew Parker, a hero from the sinking of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* (T) (858252)

10.20 Best Friends Last in series (T) (740993)

11.15 Salford (T) (118351)

11.40 The Larry Sanders Show Courteney Cox and Roseanne guest (T) (501332)

12.00 The Weather Show (7601694)

12.30pm Weather (336672)

&lt;p



## AMERICAN FOOTBALL 41

Dallas Cowboys  
drop out of  
play-off picture

## SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

England Test captain off to Jamaica heartened by one-day successes in Sharjah

# Atherton plays down rivalry with Hollioake

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE absentee captain absorbed the news from Sharjah yesterday with a detached contempt. Michael Atherton is comfortable with his decision to miss the Champions Trophy and delighted that England have reached the final without him, an eight-run victory over Pakistan yesterday preserving their 100 per cent record. But he is ready to return, refreshed by his longest break from cricket in several years and eager to resume control for the weightier business of the new year.

After a month of intensive training and individual net sessions with Graham Gooch, Atherton heads for Jamaica on Friday — not on a reconnaissance mission but for a Christmas holiday. Late next month, he will be back on the island for the first Test of a series that he passionately believes capable of giving him the greatest success of his captaincy tenure.

It bothers him not a jot that England may well now travel to West Indies as favourites. "I don't see that as disconcerting

or daunting," he said. "I would much prefer to go there with everyone in the country believing in us as much as I do."

Even Atherton does not know what the limit of his command will be when the team leaves on January 3, but he is less troubled by the conundrum than most. If it is thought that the leadership of Adam Hollioake in Sharjah merits a show of continuity for the one-day internationals that end the West Indies tour, there will be no argument from Atherton. His only concern is that the issue should not be distracting; ideally, it should be determined before departure.

Rest has been good for Atherton. The stress, fatigue and lost perspective of late summer, responsible for his unusual confusion over continuing as captain, has all been left behind. Yesterday, at home in Manchester but with an eye on the brain-teasing run-rate permutations in Sharjah — India, West Indies and Pakistan all still have a

chance of meeting England in the final on Friday — he looked forward with conviction and enthusiasm.

"I am ready for some cricket now," he said. "I've trained hard, with the squad and by myself and I've worked on my batting with Gooch, who has been a great help. There is no more I can usefully do indoors and I'm looking forward to getting started in the Caribbean."

He is keen to lay to rest any perception of rivalry between Hollioake and himself. "Other people have tried to build it up but it just doesn't exist," he said. "I was not available for this trip and I'm pleased it has gone well for Adam. It's up to the selectors to decide which of us should captain the one-dayers in the West Indies but it would obviously be best to cut short the speculation with an early decision, if possible."

"I am not a bit surprised that the boys have done well in Sharjah. It was a unit chosen specifically for a one-day event, something we have not often been able to do before, and the preparation was outstanding. They have shown the benefit of that and done themselves full justice."

Although he admits to "just a moment when I wished I was flying out there with them", there is no envy in Atherton's dissection. You sense he has gained far more from the rare taste of an English winter and that England will now benefit from his refocused mind.

"I am full of optimism about this tour," he said. "Always have been, really, but the events of the past month or so have obviously helped. There is a good feeling about our team, from the management down, while the West Indies clearly have some problems."

"It was no surprise to me that they were well beaten in Pakistan, although the margins were pretty big. Pakistan are a very good side, with match-winning bowlers, and West Indies simply aren't as strong as they were ten or 15 years ago."



Alistair Brown, who saw England away to a good start, gave this ball from Wasim Akram the full treatment

"Having said that, they are always a different proposition at home and, realistically, we haven't got an attack to compare with Pakistan's. I'm not getting carried away, and nor should anyone else, but it doesn't worry me if the bookmakers want to make us favourites."

Sensibly, he prefers to keep his thoughts private on the West Indies captaincy dilemma — a genuine, potentially unpleasant rivalry between Courtney Walsh and Brian Lara — but Atherton smiles his acknowledgement of a relief that, just for now, it is England's opponents who are

stumbling in the dark. "I have heard plenty of things about their situation but it is something I prefer to observe rather than comment upon," he said. "I can see it will be pretty interesting if they make Lara captain, though, when the first Test is on Walsh's home island."

Atherton will spend Christmas there, though as remote from cricket talk as he can achieve. He will play golf, lie on a beach and probably drink a rum or two. Next time he lands on Jamaica, it will be on serious business.

England victory, page 46

## Hoddle set to visit Morocco en route to France

BY MATT DICKINSON

ENGLAND'S World Cup preparations are set to take them via Africa, with Glenn Hoddle, the coach, close to agreeing to take part in a tournament competition in Morocco. France and Belgium have already signed up alongside the host country for the tournament at the end of May. England are expected to follow suit this week.

The biggest incentive for England is the chance to face North African opposition, having drawn Tunisia to group G at the finals in France next summer. Morocco, who are in Scotland's group, would be ideal stand-ins, particularly as, like Tunisia, they qualified for the World Cup finals unbeaten.

John Gorman, Hoddle's assistant, said yesterday: "Playing Morocco would have benefits, both for the players to get used to the weather and for them to face a North African team and get to grips with different styles. No final decision has been made, but the possibility of playing in the tournament is being discussed."

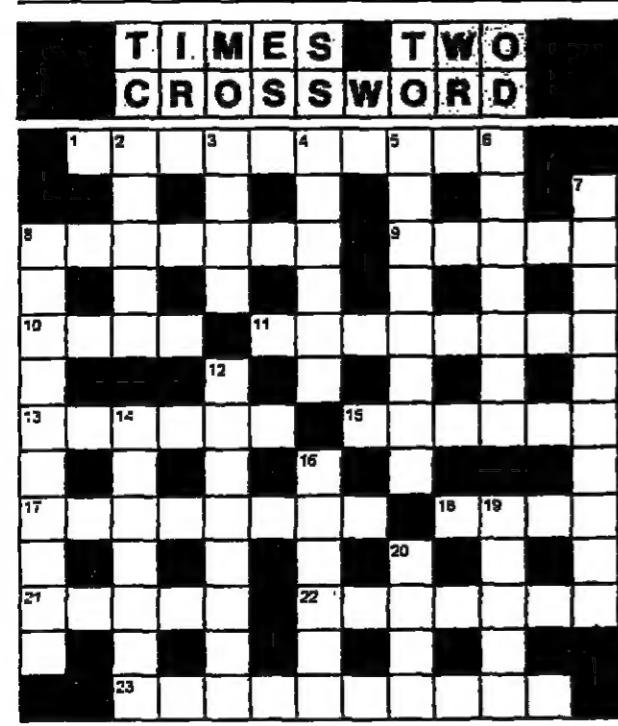
England's other opponents in the run-up to the World Cup could be finalised this week. Hoddle is keen to play a team from South America and that is likely to see a Wembley fixture in February against either Chile or Colombia, despite the latter being drawn in England's group in France. The planned trip to the United States in March is looking less likely, although an alternative arrangement has yet to be confirmed.

Whether Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, will be involved in any of Hoddle's plans will be a topic of growing debate over the next few months. Wright was spoken to by police after his team's defeat against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, when he shouted abuse at fans, and although no further action is likely, his frustration at his own lack of form is beginning to sour his relationship with the Arsenal supporters. Wright, 34, has more than two years left on his contract at Highbury, but Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is busily scouring Europe to find a replacement.

Kendall's search, page 44



Atherton and Hollioake, sharing a joke at Trent Bridge last season, could share captaincy duties in West Indies



No 1278

**ACROSS**

- 1 Bardic festival (10)
- 2 Motivate, drive (5)
- 3 Mah-jong piece: one on wall, floor (4)
- 4 Bold (6)
- 5 Man of all work (8)
- 6 Expressionless (7)
- 7 Mother of Eliz. I (4,6)
- 8 (US) vote-buying funds (slang) (4,6)
- 12 That which the admired are placed (8)
- 14 Ungendermanly: sounds like Jewish prayer (7)
- 16 Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
- 18 Old rope fibres (5)
- 20 Brief moment (slang) (4)
- 21 Throw out of house (5)
- 22 Stimulate (interest); speed up (7)
- 23 Sporting-hero memorial building (4,2,4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1277**

**ACROSS:** 1 Carbon 5 Card 8 Ward 9 Renounce 10 Foregone 11 Cord 12 Ay ay 14 Toledo 16 Wild 18 Code name 20 Flat spin 21 Curd 22 Word 23 Breath 25 DOWN: 2 Anatomy 3 Budge 4 Narrow escape 5 Council 6 Recur 7 Inverted snob 13 Audited 15 Demerit 17 Igloo 19 Niche

## Montgomerie calls for captaincy delay

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE yesterday called for a delay in the naming of Europe's Ryder Cup captain until just weeks before the 1999 event in Brookline, Boston, saying that it is the only way of finding the best man for the job.

Montgomerie, whose half-point against Scott Hoch won the Cup at Valderrama three months ago, said: "We don't need a captain until the event starts. Why do we need one during the qualification system? He won't tell us what to do at that stage."

"We don't have the likes of a Hale Irwin, a Ben Crenshaw or Tom Kite. The Americans have a choice of ten or 12 of that type of character. And, while Sam Torrance and Mark James spring to mind, they want to play. It's a terrible thing to take the

captaincy and possibly accept that means you're finished as a player. You could tell that it hurt Seve Ballesteros."

Ballesteros, whose passionate if eccentric leadership inspired Europe in his home country of Spain, has ruled himself out as captain in 1999, as has Bernard Langer, of Germany. Montgomerie wants a system where the likes of Torrance and James could attempt to qualify as a player, but, if they didn't, could then take on the captaincy.

Montgomerie sees himself taking on the role in around

eight years, but could have a

rival for the captaincy when

Ireland stages the event in 2005. Ian Woosnam, a Ryder Cup stalwart, said yesterday:

"I would love to captain

Europe in the future, ideally in Ireland in 2005."

## Jones to undergo operation today

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GWYN JONES, the Wales captain, who sustained a severe neck injury while playing for Cardiff on Saturday, is to have an operation today at the University Hospital of Wales, in Cardiff, in whose neurological department he has been since the accident.

"Gwyn Jones' medical team has advised that an operation could aid his recovery," a statement from the hospital said yesterday. Jones, 25, suffered a significant spinal cord injury when he became involved in a ruck during the Welsh League game with Swansea and doctors are cautious in predicting the extent of his recovery.

Jones, himself a medical student, who put his career on hold for two years so that he could concentrate on playing for and leaving his country

towards the 1999 World Cup, did not break his neck but sustained compression leading to significant weakness in his arms and legs. There was a degree of improvement during the 24 hours after the accident, but whether there can be further cause for optimism remains to be seen.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday sent a message of support to Jones's family. "Gwyn is an inspirational leader who has always shown great courage on the rugby field," Davies said. "I know that it will be some time before the full extent of his injury is known, but Gwyn and his family should be aware that the whole of Wales offers its best wishes that he makes a full recovery."

Cheltenham recalled, page 45

Srikumar Sen watches the world champion try to win over fans in New York

Abraham is reported to have said: "I'm not interested in the caboose without the locomotive." The same man has now given his full backing to Hamed, a featherweight, who will be defending his World Boxing Council championship against Kevin Kelley, of New York, at Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Hamed is the first Briton to head a promotion at the Garden since Ken Buchanan met Roberto Duran there 26 years ago. It is every boxer's dream to appear at the venue for the bouts of the great heavyweights, such as Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Hamed handles himself well in television interviews. When asked why HBO were spending millions to publicise an unknown fighter in the United States, Hamed said: "They have the confidence in me to be a rising star. I am destined to be a legend. They are looking at a long-term investment."

The main Garden holds 15,000, but Eric Gelfand, the venue's publicity director, said that if Hamed drew a crowd of 8,000 it would be a remarkable achievement. Gelfand expects 10,000. "That's a home run," he said, and puts it down to the marketability of Hamed. "As publicity material, Ali is as good as you get," Gelfand said. "He can never be an Ali and nothing can ever equal Ali's fight with Frazier in the Garden, but... he is an exciting showman and, if he can produce in the ring anything like what he has done outside it, he has got the goods."

Hamed handles himself well in television interviews. When asked why HBO were spending millions to publicise an unknown fighter in the United States, Hamed said: "They have the confidence in me to be a rising star. I am destined to be a legend. They are looking at a long-term investment."

## SPORTS BOOKS 42

Times writers offer their pick from this year's crop



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